MICHIGAN FARMER

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WARREN ISHAM, EDITOR.

OUR LETTERS FROM ENGLAND.

AN ENGLISHMAN'S OWN STORY.

Amid the abuse we have received from a certain class of Englishmen in this country, it is refreshing to us to receive many letters from intelligent Englishmen among us, which more than sustain us in all we have said, of which the following is a specimen Friend Ward is not the only one that pounces upon us. Another fills an entire letter with the most unmeasured abuse, without specifying a single thing in which we erred. He says, "capacious as my mother tongue is, I am at a loss for words sufficiently strong to express my disgust of your slanderous abuse of the people who inhabit that sweet Garden of Eden." As an offsett, he goes on to speak of our "ferecious countrymen," and says, "I have seen more sickness and death in your paltry towns, than I ever saw in the vast metropolis of London,"—a knock down argument, truly! But to the letter of our friend, out of the many similar ones we have received.

Letter from an Englishman.

Pennfield, Calhoun County, Mich.
March 3, 1853.

MR. ISHAM, DEAR SIR:—

Upon reading your letters from England, I was quite sure you would incur the displeasure of some of my English brethren, especially of those newly imported, who still retained much of their aristocratic notions and feelings.

I lived in England until I was 42 years of age. My father rented a farm of 2000 acres of land, in the county of Norfolk; he always—in the winter—employed eight able men, and boarded six men in the house, who attended his teams. We kept 800 sheep.

I spent the last twenty years of that time in farming for myself, in three different towns in that County, besides which I have traveled over most parts of the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, and some parts of Essex, as a Methodist preacher. I merely mention these things to show that it was quite possible for me to possess some information on English subjects.

Now, as some of my English brethren have thought you have over strained and exaggerated many cases mentioned in your letters, I, from personal knowledge of English matters, boldly stand forth and say, that you have not done so.

The poverty and slavery of the English poor you have underrated; the game laws too, with all their attendant evils, you have slightly touched. One farm I occupied in England, under Lord Berners, of 700 acres, 400 of it plowed land, the rest sheep walk and meadow, was very much infested with Hares and Rabbits, which eat up nearly half of my crop, and besides, I have had a great deal of it spoiled, by Lord Berners and his friends, who would ride through and through my crops of grain two or three times a week, in the months of May and June a *Hawking*, catching the *Heron* with a large kind of Hawk. Well, I got behind with my rent—£350 per annum—I killed the game, and they knew it, this they could not bear, and I was turned out of the farm, and left there £700 sterling in improvements, for which I received nothing.

The deep poverty and slavery of the lower classes are all you describe them to be, and the slavery runs through the whole mass—and, as you have shown, it controls their elections; the English Lord advocates and upholds the government; his tenants must uphold him, and vote at his bidding, the tradesman must vote as the tenants desire, and the poor freeholder, (if there is one in town,) must vote as his employers bid him, but these little freeholds are almost all bought up by the Lord himself. Then comes the beer subject, to speak of it is almost like putting salt in an Englishman's eyes. But it is a grevious evil, and these beer shops are very numerous, and as you remarked, mostly in the hands of wealthy Brewers; frequently they are Justices of the *Peace*.

The Government gets a considerable revenue from this system, every one of these little beer shops pay $10 a year license. The system of beer tippling is almost universal, has a direct tendency to stupify and blunt the better feelings of the mind, and many of these beer shops, commonly called Tom and Jerry, are complete dens of thieves, and haunts of prostitutes, and the week generally is finished up there with a ball, a raffle, or some kind of gambling, till late into Sunday morning.

Truly yours,

MATHEW ATMORE.

NOTES FROM HUNGARY.

BY THE EDITOR.

Now let us prepare for a trip down the Danube two hundred miles to Pesth, the capital of Hungary. At Vienna, we get upon a little cockle shell steamer, and are paddled down an artificial stream, to a large boat which is anchored upon the broad bosom of the Danube, from which this artificial stream was taken, and to which, after taken a sweep thro' the city it returns.

And now we are borne rapidly along, winding here and there for hours among the hundreds of forest crowned Islands, only occasionally getting a glimps of the wooded shore, and then emerge from the fairy scene, into an open expanse, with meadows, pasture lands, grain fields and receding wood lands, on either hand; and the white cattle too, which come down to the Danube, hundreds in a herd, to slake their thirst.

But what sight is that? It seems a town right in the river, each building standing upon its own foundation, with the deep, strong current of the river sweeping all around it? They are flouring mills operated by the natural current of the stream. First, a foundation is laid, and a small, low building, to accommodate one run of stone, is erected, the upper end of the foundation terminating in a sharp angle. The wheel is some 30 or 40 feet long, and 20 feet in diameter, one end of the shaft entering a gudgeon in the building, from which the wheel projects directly out into the stream, where there is erected another foundation, which rises sufficiently above the water to support the other end of the shaft, and which also comes to a sharp angle at the upper end. Thus, the two foundations on which the two ends of the shaft of the wheel rest, rising above the water, and terminating in a *point* at the upper end, the water of course is accumulated between them, and rushes through with increased force, at the same time, that protection is thus secured against damage from floating ice

The body of the stream itself moves on with a strong current, which, with the additional impetus given to the compressed waters, as they enter between the two foundation walls, opening wide to receive them, furnishes sufficient power to turn the immense wheel which operates the mill, and a power which never becomes exhausted by night or day. I have counted forty to fifty of these mills in a single cluster, being a few rods distant from each other, and some twenty or thirty rods from the shore. presenting quite the appearance of a town, and with all their majestic wheels in motion, quite a spectacle to behold,—a spectacle, however, to be seen every few miles, the number of mills together varying from two or three to forty or fifty.

But we are at Pesth, the capital of Hungary, and as we have fallen to talking about mills let us cross to the opposite side of the river, ascend the heights of Buda, (so noted as a Hungarian strong hold, figuring largely in the events of the late struggle,) and look far away, up and down the valley of the Danube, as well as abroad upon the vast plains of Hungary, and what do we see?

Just below Pesth, a huge canal diverts a portion of the Danube, and after winding about for miles, returns it again to the river, and upon this winding canal you see, as you look down from the heights of Buda, more than a thousand mills, arranged in clustering beauty. These are designed more particularly for winter use, while the Danube is frozen.

From all this, it may be inferred that Hungary is a great grain growing country—and so it is, one of the finest in the world, rivalling in productiveness the most fertile parts of our own favored land, and it may fitly be called the *granary of Europe*. Its climate is delightful; and its surface variegated, now stretching away into an immense plain, and then rising into hills and mountains, sinking into vallies, and expanding into plains of smaller dimensions, terminating, to the North and the East, in the vast Carpathian range, and to the West upon the shores of the Adriatic; being 500 miles in length, East and West, and 320 in breadth, North and South, constituting more than one-half the entire area of the Austrian Empire, and embracing 15,000,000 of people.

It abounds in mineral wealth, in navigable streams and every variety of product to be found in Europe. and among them, nothing so delights an American's eye, as the vast fields of Indian corn, which are every where to be seen. It is famed for its superior horses, and for its immense herds of white cattle.

The Hungarians, or Magyars, are supposed to be of Asiatic origin. They formed a constitutional monarchy about the time England did, and for a long time maintained their independence, signalizing themselves particularly in warring against the Turks, in the 15th and 16th centuries, beating them back, and thus saving Europe from being over-run with them. In the early part of the 16th century. their king dying and leaving no heir, the Emperor of Austria was elected king of Hungary, but there has always been a dissatisfaction with Austrian rule.

Previous to 1848, a modified form of the feudal system prevailed in Hungary. Out of the whole population, only about one thirtieth part possessed any political rights, and these were called nobles, about half a million in number,—but few of them, however, were of the priviledged order, or anything more than common persons, vested with civil and political rights to a certain extent. The remaining twenty nine-thirtieths of the population, were, for most parts, serfs, but upon such a tenure, that, by

extraordinary efforts, that they could emancipate themseves. They were obligated to pay a certan number of days' work annually to their masters, and were subject to corporal punishment. But in 1848 the system was abolished altogether, against the remonstrances of the Emperor, who wished a continuance of it, as a means of managing the nobles. So that a large proportion of the population of Hungary, must be considered rather low in the scale, and but poorly qualified for self government. In Austrian Poland, a far more rigorous feudal system is still in existence.

NOTES FROM SAXONY.

BY THE EDITOR.

The Other Side.

Conversing while at Dresden, with an Italian gentleman, (from Milan,) upon the subject of the present condition and prospects of Hungary, and other countries engaged in the late stuggle for freedom, I presented the discouraging considerations enumerated in my former letter from Hungary, when he replied with energy, "No, no, those expedients will never keep them down, *Arms!* Why, we can beat them without arms. In Milan, where I live, we drove 25,000 armed Austrians out of the City, with sticks and clubs and stones, thrown from the houses. And in Rome, 14,000 Italians, most of whom never saw a canon in their lives, went to work, and in a few days, manufactured 240 canon out of the bells of the city, and other things, with which they laid 15,000 French dead outside of the walls, out of an army of 150,000, with which they were surrounded, consisting of French, Austrians and Spaniards. And there were not more than thirty-five thousand stands of arms in all Hungary, when the struggle commenced."

"True," he said, "there is a dead calm now, but underneath there is a spirit at work, which at no distant day, will develope itself, and when that day comes, you will see a greater scampering among the kings than was seen in 1848, and when all the great cities of Europe again fall into the hands of the people, as they did then, the latter will not be induced to give up the advantages they have gained by false and heartless promises."

And then he went on to speak of the preparations which were secretely making, and particularly of the strength and efficiency of the Invisible Government in Italy. "It is," said he, "the most powerful government in Italy, extending its jurisdiction over the various States in that country, but who are its officers or its subjects, or where is its seat, no government spy has been able to discover, as all connected with it are bound to secrecy. But all its operations are systematically carried on, and all its decrees vigorously executed. They have a publication which is regularly issued, and scattered over the country, and no one knows whence it comes. They prohibit the use of foreign luxuries to injure the revenue, and no one dares to import them;—levy taxes, collect them, and transmit hundreds of thousands to London, and the London committee have already forwarded from one to two hundred thousand muskets, which have been landed and concealed in the country. It has, moreover, an organized army, all officered and ready to take the field at a moment's warning."

"Let them take away our arms," said he, "who cares? Arms will not be wanting, where there is a will. Let them press our men into their armies, and there will be two to one to rise up and take their places And as to their immense standing armies, the larger they are the more burdensome they become to the people, and the more determined the rising spirit of revolt, so that when the time comes troops cannot be withdrawn from one province or country, to put down insurrection in another, for they will find full employment where they are;—And as to an increase of troops, that is out of the question, for the burdens upon the people now, have reached the utmost limit, which would be tolerated."

"In Russia," he said, "there were increasing indications of disaffection, and the Autocrat would not probably dare to cross the line again to put down an insurrection in Hungary, and if he did, his resources would be so crippled, and dangers in the rear so imminent, that he could not maintain a protracted struggle. Even his short campaign in Hungary so embarrassed him, that he was forced to make a loan, and that with some difficulty."

Thus have I given the dark side, and the bright side, and from the data thus furnished, it may reasonably enough be inferred, that the end is not yet—that there are slumbering fires which will ere long break out—tempests gathering, which will spread dismay among the despots of Europe, and cause a rocking among the nations, such as has never yet transpiried in the annals of time, and in comparison with which the scenes of '48 were but the sports of children.

And as a still further consideration, may be alledged the fact, that, from the experience of the late struggle, the people have learned their strength, and from their extraordinary success, they have been inspired with confidence in their ability to cope with the despots when they undertake—a circumstance of cardinal importance to be taken into the account, when it is considered, that in the late struggle, they had no previous experience and success to encourage and nerve them for the conflict.

☞The editor of the FARMER designs to be in attendance upon the World's Fair, from the commencement, and hopes to make himself useful.

PICKINGS BY THE WAY.—NO. 13.

BY THE EDITOR.

R. B. PERRY'S FARM,—*Concluded.*

The Whele cultivator.—We have spoken of the use made by Mr. P. of the wheel cultivator in putting in his wheat. He remarked, that once going over the ground with the wheel cultivator, was equal to three times passing over it with the common cultivator. But *so much difference as that?* Yea, he said, the common cultivator, when it met only a slight resistance, would skip about here and there, and leave much of the ground untouched,—reminding him of the school master who taught the children to skip all the hard words. Whereas the wheel cultivator would hold on the even tenor of its way, passing right through all ordinary obstructions; and besides, it could be gauged to the exact depth desired.

And then it was so convenient to transport to any part of the farm, and it could not only be trundled upon its own wheels, but it would cary a plow, drag, and bag of seed, while the common cultivator could not even transport itself, making it necessary to be at the trouble of taking a wagon to the field.

He uses the wheel cultivator also to level corn hills preparatory to plowing, passing over six or eight acres per day. The cost is from twenty to twenty-five dollars.

Saving Manures.—He said, that people in estimating the loss and gain arising from witering stock, left one important item entirely out of their calculations, viz: the wealth accumulated in the manure heap. This, he said, should enter as a capital consideration, into every farmer's estimate of the advantages of wintering stock. And he could tell the state of a man's farm by a look into his barn yard, and on the other hand, the appearance of a man's farm was a sufficient indication of the condition of his barn yard. He said he was in the habit, every two or three years, of skinning off the soil which underlaid the manure in his yard, to the depth of two or three inches, and it was just as good as the stable manure itself, saturated as it was with the liquid which had percolated into it.—Some of his neighbors thought him very foolish thus to take out the bottom of his barn yard.

Effect of kindness on Cows.—He contends that there should never be a harsh word spoken to a cow. There was no surer way to spoil a cow, he said, than by harsh treatment, and he had often reclaimed vicious cows which others could do nothing with, and made them docile and tractable by kind and gentle treatment.

To take Ruta Baga flavor from Milk.—To effect this, and prevent the butter from being affected, he pours two quarts of boiling water into a pail ful of milk, which he says is effectual.

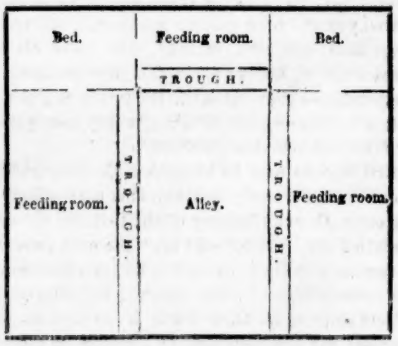
Keeping Cattle up in winter.—Mr. P. said there was both economy and comfort in keeping cattle constantly in the stable, night and day. in the winter, and not letting them out at all. By letting them lie out throughout the day in the cold air, they became chilled, and the more for coming out of a warm stable, so that whatever argument there was for stabling them at all, there was the same argument for stabling them both night and day.—He had tried it effectually, and was fully satisfied, that his cattle did better on less food, to be stabled the whole time, than to be let out through the day, or even long enough to be watered. He spoke particularly of the advantage he had realized from thus keeping up cattle he was fattening. Of course in such a case, there must be some provision for watering them with facility, by means of a trough. And yet he has found it profitable, under all the disadvantages of watering them by hand with a bucket.

Plowing orchards.—His experience confirms the facts repeatdly given in the Farmer in reference to the advantage of cultivating an orchard for some years after the trees are set. And then, after having seeded it down, when he comes to plow again he is very careful to spade up all the balks by the trees.

And another thing, he always plows his orchard diagonally, which, of course gives a wider space between the trees, by which means much smaller balks are left. To plow the way the rows are set, the trees come so frequently, that, to avoid injuring them a balk must extend well nigh across the entire field, at every row.

He thinks he gets much better fruit by plowing his orchard in August.

His Piggery.—He has a piggery, of which we here give a representation, the cost of which was about one hundred dollars. It resembles in some of its features the one given in our last.



He propses to put doors to open from the feeding rooms into adjacent small yards, uncovered, which would make it substantially like the draft given us by Mr. Kenney. It has similar swing partitions over the troughs.

The floor plank are laid down loose, and in the spring he takes them all up and cleans them, and skims off the earth underneath, which is saturated with liquid manure.

Some of his neighbors wondered that he should put his hog pen so near the house, to annoy the family with its stench, and that would be an objection, he said, if he neglected, as most people did, to clean it, and to feed his crops with what would otherwise be a nuisance. He calculated that in warm weather his hog pen would be as clean and sweet as his front yard, and thus he was saved the trouble of tramping to a distance to attend to his hogs.

Mr. Rockafellow's Plow.—He gave us a description of a new model of a plow got up by Mr. Rockafellow, of Davidsonville, Genesee Co. of which we here give a representation of the mould board.

The advantage of this form of mould-board is, that it prevents the pressure against the land-side, which generally wears it out so soon, at the same time that it makes the draft one-fourth lighter, a great advantage truly. He said, that it turned the furrow just as well as the common mould-board.

This certainly looks reasonable. We understood Mr. P. that he had used it, and spoke from experience of its merits.

VEGETABLE PHYSIOLOGY—No. 4.

BY THE EDITOR.

And there stands the tree we have reared, sending its roots downward into the earth, lifting up its majestic trunk, and spreading out its broad branches, all mantled in living green.

Its multitudinous leaves, present, in the aggregate, an immense surface to arrest the fugitive atoms which float in the passing breeze. Common atmospheric air, has been found, upon analysis, to have been robbed of its carbonic acid gas, in passing through the foliage of a tree, the oxygen of which is disengaged and expelled, as we said, while the carbon (charcoal) which is the principal constituent of all vegetables, is retained for use.

The myriads of pores, (*stomas*) which absorb from without, and evaporte from within, are, in most vegetables, mainly upon the under side of the leaf. The leaves of some plants laid with the under side upon the water, will live for weeks and even months, being sustained by the nutriment they take from the water through their pores.

It is the evaporating process which is constantly going on from the leaves, that makes *shading and watering* of plants newly set necessary, as the roots have not yet gotten such a hold as to absorb moisture from below sufficient to supply what is thus given off, under the direct rays of the sun.—The exhausting effect of the intense heat upon vegetation, may be seen in the crisped leaves of Indian corn upon a hot summer's day, the moisture being evaporated through the pores of the leaves, faster than it is absorbed by the roots.

This vapor, which is thus given off through the pores of the leaves, sometimes assumes a visible form, as when condensed by a sudden change of the weather. This only happens, however, to certain classes of trees, which perspire the most freely.

It may be remembered that in the account we gave of the Canary Islands, we mentioned the fact, that it was regarded as injurious to health, and even dangerous to life to sit or recline for any length of time beneath the shade of their trees.—The injurious effect arises from the fact, that some trees, together with watery vapor, exude a poisonous substance which they seem to secrete.

From the fact, that plants absorb so readily the carbonic acid gas of the atmosphere, which is so hurtful to human life, it might be inferred, that they would exert a purifying influence upon the air in a sleeping apartment, by taking in the carbonic acid gas thrown off in breathing. But not so. It is only during the day, under the influence of the sun's rays, that carbonic acid gas is absorbed. In the darkness of night, it is given off again into the atmosphere, to a smaller extent to be sure, than it was taken in during the day, but still sufficiently to affect injuriously the air of a sleeping apartment, and besides, there is some moisture evaporated, and from some plants the poisonous substance above spoken of, is exuded; and more than all that, the oxygen of the atmosphere, (the animal life sutaining principle,) is absorbed by the leaves in the night. So far then from plants being healthful in sleeping apartments, they are injurious to health, as they not only impart injurious elements to the atmosphere, but rob it of the very principle which is essential to human life.

From the vast amount of watery vapor given off through the leaves, it may reasonably be inferred, that a very dense mass of foliage close about a dwelling, must be injurious to health, by perfectly saturating the atmosphere with moisture. Experiments have been made with the greatest nicety, to determine the quantity of water thus given off by plants; a common sun-flower was found by a distinguished experimenter to evaporate about two pounds during twelve hours in a dry, hot day, while during a dry night, it lost something less than a quarter of a pound. Hence all plants are lighter during the day than during the night.

Those plants which have no leaves, have thick, fleshy surfaces, often flattened, which perform the same offices.

The leaves of plants not only cease to perform

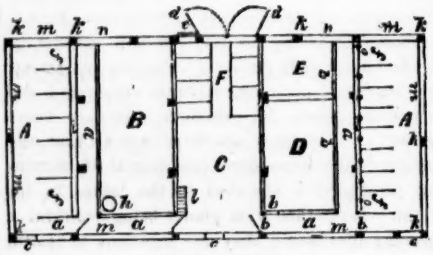
their functions, and rest from their labors, as the darkness of night closes upon them, but they have been found to droop slightly in the dark, as though in a state of sleep. It is highly probable, that a state of unceasing activity under the constant influence of the sun's rays, would as soon exhaust their vital powers, as it would the vital powers of the animal organization.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Model Barn.

ALTO, KENT CO., Feb. 28, 1853.

MR. ISHAM, DEAR SIR :—Accompanying this I send you, according to agreement, a ground plan and also an elevation of my barn; if it should prove of any use to your numerous subscribers, I shall deem myself amply compensated for my trouble. I am well aware that many of us are extremely careless in the construction of our buildings, too apt by far to build as our fathers built before us, without giving the subject that consideration which our future convenience would amply reward; we ought to remember that what may seem economy is not always the genuine article, ("Time is money,") therefore if in the construction of farm buildings time can be saved in the care of animals, without materially increasing the cost of building, it is certainly a desideratum.



GROUND PLAN.

The above barn was planned with special reference to capacity and convenience as a stock and grain barn combined. The bay, B is twenty-four feet deep from the plates to the ground, and capable of holding twenty tons of hay, and five hundred bushels of wheat of ordinary growth. The one over, *D E* is sixteen feet deep, and capable of holding four hundred bushels of wheat.

The barn is built on a side hill, and a stone wall nine feet high and eighteen inches thick next the bank, the remainder of the wall is four feet high and the same thickness. These walls are laid with cobble or field stone, in lime mortar. The rafters of the two stables rest at their upper ends upon the beams at the gables of the main building; the lofts are six feet high at the eaves, and capable of holding from four to six tons of hay each. There are two floors sixteen by thirty-five, each one over the other, made of two inch plank, the chaff room and root cellar, are floored over on a level with the upper floor; the floor over the root cellar should be double and filled in with spent tan bark; the wood partitions, also the door should be double and packed with bark. The posts in the main building are sixteen feet long, the basement is eight feet in the clear. The lower floors should be raised a foot or sixteen inches from the ground, so as to give a free circulation of air beneath, to prevent decay, and a chance for cats to "catch the rats that eat the malt, &c."

The pole to support the lightning rod rises forty-seven feet above the ridge, the foot rests in a beam framed into the perline plates, and it is supported by a frame on the ridge pole which is in two pieces; the rod extends four feet higher than the pole, and has a wind vane near the top. I deem it important sometimes, to know *which way the wind blows.*

The passages marked *a a* in the plan, are properly feeding alleys, the hay can be pitched into them from the stable lofts, or from the bays, thence into the mangers, thereby avoiding filling the horses manes with grass seed, (I prefer mangers to racks on this account,) they also give easy access to the lower floor granary, chaff-house, and root cellar; the stable floors should be laid with three by four stuff, and left open so as to allow the urine a free passage.

I intend to extend sheds from each end of the barn, sixty or eighty feet each way, then turn right angles and extend any required distance, so as to form a hollow square facing the south. I have shown a section of the shed in the elevation; I would not have them all open sheds, but would have doors or gates, hung so as to open outwards and upwards so that when open they would make a shelter, and when shut down, the bottoms should be high enough from the ground to give free ingress and egress to sheep; they should be supplied with suitable racks or mangers for feeding.

I think I have been sufficiently explicit in my description to enable a person to construct a similar building, but I hope no farmer will do so before thoroughly studying the plan, and try and see if he cannot in some manner improve upon it. The plan can be varied to suit the circumstances of the ground, &c.

ELEVATION.

I must apologize for having drawn out this de-

scription to such undue length, but I believe you have not adopted a gag-rule, and when I get to talking with my friends I hardly know when to stop.

Yours respectfully,
D. C. McVEAN.

For the Michigan Farmer

The Ozier Willow in Michigan.

WRIGHT, HILLSDALE Co., March 9th, 1853.

MR. EDITOR:—If I have been rightly informed, Michigan is full of this willow. There is a man who lives south of me, in Ohio, that manufactures willow-baskets, and he gathers his willows from our swamps. He goes into the swamps in the winter, and cuts down all the old brush, and then a thick growth of sprouts will start from the old stumps. These sprouts he gathers the preceeding fall, or winter, only of one summer's growth.

Three years ago this winter, I tried the experiment, cutting down a large patch on my marsh, and the result was, I had a large growth of sprouts, from three to four and five feet long.—Not knowing how to make baskets, nor where to market them, they never have been cut since.

CURTISS COMAN.

For the Michigan Farmer.

The Foul Meadow Discovery.

ANOTHER LETTER FROM MR. FOWLE.

MR. ISHAM, DEAR SIR:—In your remarks upon my foul meadow grass, there are some questions which you wished me to answer, and first, is Mr. F. sure that the seed ripened sufficiently before cutting, to vegetate? To this I will say, that the circumstances are favorable to the opinion that it was. Last season was dry, and vegetation matured early, and this grass was cut the last of July. There has been some gentlemen here from a distance to test it; they pronounce it good and no mistake.

Second, as to its introduction into the marsh, I have no doubt but the seed was brought here in the year ,32 or '33. Both seasons we had hay-tools brought from the east, packed in hay, and they were first used here.

I was first led to notice it by the cattle feeding on this part of the marsh in the summer, when feed was good on the upland; they damaged it so much that I was compelled to fence it, enclosing some 80 acres of marsh with it (in '44).—Since that time, it has made rapid advancement on the wild grass; it will go down into the wet holes, and tussle with the tall bluejoint and broadleaf, and eventually drive them out.

There is a small part of the marsh made dry enough for spring crops; on this place the marsh is about one foot thick, mixed with sand, and the underlay lime, gravel, and clay. Here this grass is contesting claims with elder, willow, nettles, pigweed, thistles, and various other trash. It appears to be too dry for its healthy existence, and it is doubtful which will hold possession.

My marsh is situated on the Kalamazoo creek, and was once a very wet and miry hole, covered by the overflow of the stream. I have partially drained it by a ditch 10 feet wide, 2 1-2 deep, and about one mile long, cut straight from point to point, of the hard land, leading the water through the shortest way.

I say *partially drained*, for I consider the most important point in ditching our marshes, is first to get a sufficient fall, then a sufficient ditch to convey off all the surplus water at any time, (and mine is not half large enough for that) then many of the smaller ditches are dispensed with, unless to lead some large spring into the main ditch.

Now, Mr. Editor, I think your questions are answered, but I have not answered one-half of the individual inquiries from various parts of the state, which have come to hand since you and friend Johnson brought me before the public.—One man wishes to know where I live; it is an honest question, and I will in candor say, that I live one-half mile south of that little village called Moscow, on one of the many thousand beautiful elevations which are dotted all over the interior of our state. My house,—like myself, old and worse for wear,—stands in the border of a native forest, which is left to grow in its majesty and splendor; many of the trees retain their leaves through the winter, which an eminent writer says are the beauty and the glory of the trees. Many ask the price per bushel, the time to sow, the quantity to the acre &c., very important questions, which I am not able to answer. I intend to commence threshing this week; no doubt it will be a slow job, for the hay wild, and tame, was raked together with a horse-rake and stacked without any reference to the sun.

My intention is to sell as low as possible, and get pay for my labor.

Advice from any person in regard to price, threshing, cleaning, and sending, will be thankfully received.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Profits of Farming.

RAWSONVILLE, March 3d 1853.

MR. ISHAM, DEAR SIR:—Not long since, happened where a number of persons were discussing the profits of stock invested in different kinds of business, and all with one accord agreed (though some were farmers) that of all business, farming paid the lowest per cent of any on the amount of capital invested. Not feeling like discussing the topic without the statistics of my farm, I sat quietly and heard them through, resolving, when I got home, to investigate the matter, and if these were facts, to quit farming, and invest my capital in something that would pay better. I accordingly did so, and forward the result to you, thinking perhaps it might stir up some of our brother farmers to see what they are doing, and stand up for their business, if you should think it worth a place in your columns.

I have only a small farm, of eighty acres, with fifty acres improvement, viz, eighteen acres wood land, nine acres bush pasture, with some timber, the remainder being occupied by my lane and highway, on one side and end of my farm. Deducting this, and one acre around my house and

barn, leaves remaining forty-six acres of tillable land.

The cropping which I give below, was done in the summer of 1851, and is as follows: planted thirty acres corn, but owing to the heavy rains of that spring, five arces were completely drowned out, leaving me twenty-five acres of standing corn.

The land thus deprived of a crop, was sown to buckwheat in June, in order to reap something. The yield of corn, together with the price I received at my corn house, I give below, as also the products of my farm in whole numbers, and leave others to judge of the profits:—

25 acres, 74 2-3 bushels to the acre, amounting to 1866 2-3 bushels.	
Sold seed 65 bush., 5 s. per. bush.	$ 40 62
" feed 255 " 4 6d "	143 44
" " 1546 2-3 4 "	773 33 1-3
Total of corn	$957 39 1-3
7 acres wheat (after oats) 11 bushels per acre—77 bush., 6 s. per bushel	$ 57 75
5 acres oats, (in orchard) 60 bush. per acre—300 bush., 3 s per bushel,	112 50
Buckwheat among corn, 51 bushels, 40 cents per bushel,	20 40
6 tons of hay, $6 per ton,	36 00
150 bushels apples, 6 s per bushel	112 50
92 1-2 bushels potatoes 67 1-2 2 s per bushel,	16 87 1-2
25 bushels potatoes, 6 s per bush..	18 75
35 1-2 bushels onions 6 s per bushel	26 62 1-2
Of seed (the buttons) 2 bushels, $6 per bushel.	12 00
102 pounds of wool, 34 cts. per pound	34 68
14 lambs, $1 a piece,	14 00
207 pounds maple-sugar 1s per pound	25 87 1-2
Eggs and poultry	48 77 1-2
Total of farm	$ 1494 12

Thus I have given you the product (in whole numbers) of my farm, not including my butter, pork, and quite an amount of fruit and vegetables of different kinds, &c., &c., consumed by my family (9 in number). The labor on my farm was all performed by myself and two sons, the youngest 14 years old, and my oldest was sick three summer months, unable to do anything, and not hiring as much as one day.

Thus it will be seen, that together with the labor, calling the the farm $50 per acre, we realize a fraction less than 37 1-2 per cent on the capital invested for one year. Now allowing that $600 would hire the men, and teams, tools, &c., which, by the by, I should consider would well pay them, I have the snug sum of $900 nett profit, or 22 1-2 per cent on my capital, and I am in reality neating this from a little more than one-half my capital, because if the remaining portion was improved, it would increase my per cent largely.

You are satisfied by this time, I presume that I had no disposition to sell out, and try something else, and I begin to feel as though, from experience, I was able to support, in part at least, that doctrine which I have always advocated, that farming carried on systematically, was the best business, and the most profitable investment a person could engage in. I have followed mechanical business in my younger days, but never have I seen the mechanic, with the same amount of capital invested, that could cope with the systematic, thorough-going tiller of the soil. I rejoice that I have lived to see the day when farming, tilling the soil, is considered an honorable calling. That farmers may come up, and enjoy the privileges in store for them, thereby fulfilling their duty to God, to men, and to themselves, is the wish of your friend

N. J. Brown.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Muskelunge or King-Fish of the Lakes,

They are the quickest, smartest, and strongest fish in the lakes. and the largest, except the sturgeon. If you strike a large one with a spear, you will soon find out his strength, and if you or the spear, or both, don't go overboard, you may think yourself lucky. It is wild sport to catch them in a dark night by torch-light, in a strong rapid current. Sometimes if you strike a spear into a large one, he will knock out the light, partly upset the boat, and tow you down stream at a rapid rate.

They pass through the water with great speed, at the rate of 25 or 30 miles an hour. Frequently when they find themselves enclosed in a seine, they will make a break in the water near the shore with their tail, in order to get good distance and headway, that they may break through the seine, and they are almost certain to go through, if they have distance enough, and are under full way; if they do not succeed the first time, they will continue to try. They are mostly found in, and about lake Erie. They frequent Maumee river more than any other river around the lakes; they ascend the river in the spring in pairs, and spawn in April, in some secluded place, under the point of a rock, log, or root. They make a clean place on the bottom, and deposit their spawn in a cluster, all cemented together with a glutinous jelly-like substance, and if there is any dirt or anything lodges on them, they seem to fan or brush it off with their fins, and here by the side, and around the spawn, they station themselves, seemingly very patiently to protect them until they hatch, which will be from three to four weeks, varying according to the temperature of the water, and if a fish, or anything, comes near, one of them will dart after it and drive it off, and return immediately to its station, and were it not for this, nature's gift, of protecting their spawn, they would soon become extinct, for fish, fowls, and all that live in, and about the water, are very fond of them, and their being all in a cluster, they would be devoured very readily. It takes eight or ten years to grow to their common size, and when they are partly grown, they are a very beautiful fish when first taken out of the water, with changeable colored and spotted on their sides, something like the spots on a fawn. But they are a voracious fish, with long sharp teeth on their upper and lower jaws, and have been caught with the remains of five or six fish, that would weigh three or four pounds each, in them. They are considered one of the best fish in the lakes,

for packing, drying, smoking, and fresh. Their flesh is firm, sweet, and fine-favored, but they are not numerous; a common sized fish will weigh ten pounds, large size seventy-five pounds, common length three feet, length of largest six feet, and some of them may live to be two-hundred years of age. There are thirty-one varieties of fish in the lakes, and a number of these varieties would do well in some of our small lakes. I have no doubt but some of these lakes could be stocked with fish, and if so, might be made to produce more in value, than many times the same quantity of cultivated land; as they are now, they are of little or no value. I hope some of our enterprising land-holders around these lakes, will try the experiment. I could furnish white-fish spawn from my pond, to stock some of the lakes. Some of those thirty-one kinds of spawn fish, have as many as twenty-thousand eggs each.

Yours, G. CLARK.

ECORSE, March, 1853.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Shanghai and Cochin China Fowls.

MR. EDITOR:—The two breeds of fowls known by the above names, stand prominent among the gallinaceous family, as combining the most of the most valuable qualities. They produce the most meat with the least amount of offal, they lay the best and the greatest number of eggs, are the most docile and quiet in their habits, and arrive at early maturity. This combination of virtues has led to a great demand for them in many parts of the country, and in our state a desire to try them has been manifested, which I am convinced will result in much good, if good and pure stock is obtained. My present object is to make inquiries about some of the peculiarities of these two breeds of fowls, and also to state my own opinion upon what I conceive to be a popular error.

In "Bennet's Poultry Book" there are three varieties of these fowls described. The "Royal, or Queen's Fowls," Burnham's importation, and Bailey's importation. The color of the "Royal Fowls" is described as being a "rich glossy brown, or deep bay;" "Burnham's Importation" is described, "in the cock brown and red, sometimes red and black, the pullets generally a yellowish brown. "Bailie's Importation" is thus described, "the plumage of these fowls is exceedingly rich and variegated, usually brown or yellow, the cockeralls generally red." These are all the varieties he describes. I have seen several collections of these fowls, but never saw any black ones; if there be in fact such a variety, it would be valuable, for it is scarce.

The Shanghai fowls have feathers upon their legs and toes, this is considered by eastern breeders to be an indispensable appendage to pure-bloods. Mr. Burnham, the well known importer and breeder of these fowls, writes as follows:—(and his remarks are endorsed by Dr. Bennet in his work, which I believe is considered first-rate authority on these subjects.)

"I am confident that these fowls (Shanhais,) are confounded with the Cochin Chinas. I make the distinction that all my imported Shanghais, and I have three different varieties, from different sources, are *heavily feathered upon the legs*.—My Cochin Chinas which I consider possess all the good points that any specimens classed under that name do, have *no* feathers upon the legs. The Shanghais came from the monutains in the extreme north of China. The Cochin China originated in a country by that name in a more southern latitude. Now it seems to me that nature may have provided the Shanghai fowl with feathers upon the legs and feet, as a protection comparatively, for the country they inhabit is much colder than the other and *vice versa*.—Whenever I have found fowls imported directly from the north or the south, the above-named distinction actually exists, though many farmers and poulterers, declare, spite of feathers or no feathers, that their fowls are Cochin Chinas or Shanghais,—just as they please. In some instances, I find that a decision on this point depends entirely upon which particular kind *you want to buy*."

A gentleman in Albany, N. Y., who breeds six or seven different varieties of Shanghais, writes to me that all of his are heavily feathered on the legs. I would like to inquire through your journal of some of our breeders, if there is a pure-blooded variety of Shanghais without the feathers.

Respectfully Yours, T. WILEY, JR.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Poultry.

FRIEND ISHAM:—The interest you have expressed in my particular branch of business, induces me to give you an outline of my "chicken fixings" and doings at present, showing that I have not been idle in my favorite occupation, but I am determined to make the stanard of my fowls vie with the finest of the fine. I have increased my varieties at much expense, and procured some choice birds, bred by Doct. E. Wyte of Boston and others, to cross on my choice selection of the same varieties, to guard against the ruinous effects of in and in breeding;—hence, those who have purchased fowls of me heretofore, may obtain fresh blood from the same yard, and if the expressions of persons engaged in fowl raising at the east, and familiar with many noted yards, who have visited me recently, can be relied on, I have reason to feel proud of mine.

My hen fixtures are divided into eleven departments, with yards attached, and each variety was separated early in January; when the breeding season arrives, the eggs are marked when taken from their respective apartments, the nests numbered, and a memorandum book kept of each kind set, with a list of marks which are made upon the chickens when taken from the nests, so that pairs of the same variety may be sent off, not of the same strain of blood, though perhaps so in appearance, a precaution which most breeders are not enabled to take, nor I heretofore, but of much advantage to the purchaser. Thus you will perceive, my mode of breeding and managing my fowls, involves strict attention, which many express surprise at, and no doubt I am ridiculed by many more, as the FARMER says

I was "when I began writing on the subject." However, be that as it may, my poultry yards are a source of pride and pleasure to me, which every one has a right to indulge in without molestation so long as he imposes not upon the rights of others, nor violates the laws of God and man. But as this is an age of progression, many are awakening to a sense of their interest. It has been truly remarked "that he is a benefactor who makes two spears of grass grow where there was but one." Here I'll arrogate to myself a like honor by propagating the choice varieties of fowls, and am now giving full assurance, that I am a believer in the doctrine I preach, deserving credit for my honesty at least.

Having satisfactorily tested the profit of fowls for eating purposes only, I have this last fall, expended in permanent fixtures for them, sufficient to build a snug dwelling house, intending to rely on my poultry as a means of profit, when they will only command eating prices, with the facilities we now have to eastern markets; still then, my fixtures are so arranged that each variety will be kept distinct without extra trouble, as I keep all yarded the whole year, thereby affording amusement to myself in propagating different kinds, and enabling me to say to purchasers in want of pure breeds:—*such and such, are such, and no mistake.*

My varieties occupy twelve distinct yards, viz: three of Shanghais, two of Cochins, one of gray Chittagong, one of Shanghai and Dorking half-and-half; one of black Cochin and white Dorking half-and-half, beautifully mottled; one of Chitterprats a variety that never set; one of Sebright Bantams, two of Dorkings, one the white variety, the other a lot just received per ship Southampton to New York, thence by express here, through the agency of a gentleman here whose family reside at Dorking, Surry England, and are extensively engaged in raising poultry. They write that they paid ten guineas for the father of the chickens sent, and that fifty guineas have been refused for a Dorking cock of the same stock. Hence we may conclude we yankees are not the only fools in the world.

I have made arrangements to keep, in addition to the above, Bramah poultry and black Spanish, from Dr. Bennet Massachusetts.

I raised 500 chickens last year, and found a ready sale at advertised prices, reserving extra chickens from the different broods to breed from. I have just weighed three Shanghai chickens, hatched in July last, a cock and two pullets, that balanced 27 pounds and nine ounces. The pullets are laying daily.

Nearly all my fowls are hatched after the 1st of July, still, I have sold eggs at one-shilling-and-sixpence per dozen, sufficient to pay their keeping up to this time.

I am in hopes ere long to have the pleasure of a visit from you, when you can inspect my stock and fixtures. Eight yards are fed and watered, eggs collected, fowls shut up, and let out from one hall.

Yours respectfully

SCHOOLCRAFT, JAN. 31, 1853.

For the Michgan Farmer.

More great pigs—cheap pork.

TROY, OAK CO., JAN. 14.

Having read Mr. Gray's communication from Branch County, and feeling desirous that the eastern should keep pace with the western part of the state, I would state that a cow brought me 6 pigs on the last night of April 1852, 4 of which were slaughtered on the 27th of December, and weighed in the aggregate 902 pounds, which averaged 225 and 1-2 pounds each. Said pigs did not consume one quart of grain or provender of any kind, until the 1st of October, but were fed on sour milk, butter-milk, and slops three times a day regularly. They then had soft corn for forty days, after which they were fed good sound corn in the ear, with the slops.

I think this to be the cheapest pork for our families, where the pigs come early in the season.

Success to your enterprise Yours,

JOHN MARTIN, V. D. M.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Still greater pigs, and how to make them

MR. ISHAM, SIR:—Having noticed in the January number, two articles headed "great lot of pigs," and "more great pigs," it led me to think of four that I killed, two last November, and two in December, '51; the four were out of the same sow, owned by E. Walken Esq, Palmyra, Lenawee County, but out of different boars, the blood of which I know nothing of; the sow is Leicester and Berkshire. Those of '52 I purchased when six weeks old, put them in a pen, fed them on corn meal and milk, until wheat was cut, then put them in the stubble for five weeks, then took them to the yard, fed them ten bushels of musty wheat meal, fomented with milk and water, and finished up fattening on corn on the cob. I killed them on the 16th of November, the day that they were eight months old, one weighed 240 pounds, the other 250.

Now for the two in '51. I purchased them at the same age, put them in a small yard, fed with milk and corn meal until potatoes were fit to dig, then boiled and mashed them and stiffened with corn meal to the consistency of butter, feeding three times a day. I killed them on the day they were eight months old, the 3d of December; one weighed 306 pounds the other 308.

Now I may not be at the State Fair with my pigs, but I should be pretty likely to have them at home as I do not often fail.

I have several reasons for the difference in the weight of my pigs; one or two I will mention:—

First, I consider corn meal and boiled potatoes the very best of feed both for fattening and growth. Wheat, in the next place is too rich, and fattens too fast, stops the growth, if not cautiously dealt out. I am confident that I injured my two last by over feeding. Thirdly, I think that corn fed on the cob is dead loss of one-half.

Yours truly, I. CRAM.

ADRIAN, FEB. 8th, 1853.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Another Litter.

MR. EDITOR:—In your January number, Mr. A. J. Gray gave an accurate account and weight of four pigs, and asks if they can be beat in Michigan. I think they can be in Branch Co. My neighbor J. L. Lee Esq., had a litter of nine pigs,—fed them on shorts and water, and let them run in the streets until five-and-a-half months old,—then shut them up and fed them on soft corn until eight months and six days old After being dressed and drained they weighed as follows:—210, 216, 226, 250, 252, 254, 257. The other two I did not see weighed, consequently I did not get the weight.

Yours truly, H. G. W.

UNION CITY, JAN., 1853.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Still another lot.

MR. ISHAM:—On the 12th of May, I bought 3 pigs, one five and the others seven weeks old, and brought them home, and put them in a pen, where I kept them confined, and began feeding them sour milk and shelled corn, which I kept up for about a month, when I got five bushels of corn in the ear ground, which I gave to them occasionally for a change.

From the first of August, they were fed on corn on the cob principally, and were never allowed to run out. I killed them on the 20th of January, the youngest weighing 330 lbs.; being eight months and fifteen days old, the others we did not weigh, (which we should have done, had we anticipated making an account of it,) but they were not so heavy, although not weighing less than 260 lbs., being nine months' old. Now I am satisfied there can be no cheaper pork than this fatted, and if farmers would not winter so many swine and fatten more early pigs—good breeds, they would make quite a sauing by it.

JACOB BAKER.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Ohio vs. Michigan:

SPRING PIGS FOR PORK.

EDINBURG, OHIO, JAN. 15, 1853.

MR EDITOR:----Your friend Brown of Battle-Creek, thinks that spring pigs can be made to weigh 250 pounds by the middle of December; there is no doubt thereof, and my experience is the proof. I endeavor to have my pigs come about the 1st of March, generally keep them in pen, feed well but not too highly, till in August when I give them all they desire. I kill about the middle of December, and I have had but one that fell short of 250 pounds, and the generality of them reached 275; my two last overrun 300 pounds each, but there is one drawback, young hogs of the same weight of old hogs will not have so much lard.

I find by experience, that subsoiling our clay-land and thorough draining all our wet and flat land, is attended with an increase of the crop; besides the land is more mellow, and consequently more easy of cultivation.

Well now, that "Farmer's Bank" I like, and the more that the farmer puts in to such a bank, with proper and judicious management, the more he, and all others may be benefited; quite different from our shinplaster institutions.

YOURS RESPECTFULLY,

E. PEARSON.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Wool and wheat-growing.

HANOVER, Feb., 26th, 1853.

MR. ISHAM:—As wheat and wool are by far the greatest interests of our farmers, would is not be as well to show them the benefits of more closely combining these interests.

The straw and shorts of every forty acres of good wheat, may be easily made to winter one hundred sheep well. The straw should be well stacked, and topped out with marsh-hay, or housed, as half of our straw is spoiled by exposure. Then the flock should be provided with good shelter, which can be easily made when the straw is stacked. Troughs also should be provided them, so that all may readily get their shorts, at the same time that the stronger may not deprive the weaker of their food.

Access daily to good fresh water, and plenty of salt, with a daily foddering of the straw, judiciously thrown about, will complete the routine of duties requisite to the well wintering of a flock of sheep, in our favored state.

As the summer outlay is more than repaid by labor-saving and manure upon our fields and fallows, it requires no further mention,—the wintering is the main thing. A close calculation upon the foregoing plan of keeping sheep, shows the cost of wool-growing to be far less than that of any other state, lying in the northern portion of our union,—as stated in our Patent Office Reports, or from any other reliable source.

Will not the MICHIGAN FARMER give this subject a passing notice? I expect to see you, Mr. Isham, at our next County Fair next fall, when I will show you some of my straw, shorts, and sheep.

Respectfuly yours, ELON G. COLE.

More about it.

HANOVER, JACKSON CO., Feb., 28th, 1853.

MR. ISHAM:—I would say to you, that my experience for four years past, proves to me, that four ounces of wheat shorts per day, fed to sheep, during five months of the usual foddering season, together with the straw of thirty or forty acres of wheat, is sufficient to winter one hundred sheep;—that according to former prices of wool and sheep, the annual income from wool and *increase* of *good* sheep, is two dollars ten cents per head. As the care of the flock is the main item, it is fair to say, that this labor comes in a season when most easily spared by the Michigan farmers. By throwing in all these little duties in spare time, we cannot count the cost over fifty cents per head per year. From this view of wool-growing in Michigan, I was induced to send you my former communication.

Respectfully yours, ELON G. COLE.

For the Michigan Farmer.

State Agricultural Society.

MR. EDITOR :—

Will you allow me to say a few words through the medium of your valuable paper about our State Agricultural Society, a society that never had an infancy nor a childhood, but which came forth with the maturity of age stamped upon every feature.

Bright was the day that dawned upon its first exhibition, brightnesss beamed upon the countenance of every one that witnessed our first State Agricultural Show. It was a triumph won over all the Western and many of the Eastern States.

But have we advanced as our first show promised, and as our State has advanced in improvement and wealth?

Sorry am I to admit that this is far from the case. With the single exception of some deparments of stock, we have made no advance, and in some things we have gone backwards, and are beaten by some of our County fairs. It is with great reluctance that I speak of this, but that such are the facts, who can deny? There are several causes for this which may be enumerated.

Among the various complalnts I have heard, is the very general one, that of the large amount received by the Society, so small a sum is paid in premiums, the amount of credits in 1851 being $5731,47—and the amount paid in premiums being only $1308. This has led to the impression that there must be mismanagement somewhere. I have been looking over the accounts rendered for 1851, and they are like the accounts investigated for work done on the capital at Washington, I guess that—I should like to guess a little as I am a Yankee—I guess then, that when our very worthy Secretary gets as much salary for a small portion of his time as many equally well qualified, would think sufficient for their whole time, he should not make an extra charge for attending the meeting of the Executive Committee. I guess that many think that when he is paid for superintending the affairs of the Society, including the arrangement and fitting up of the fair grounds, that he should not bring in a bill for paying others for what it was plainly his own duty to do. I guess some people would like to know what constituted John Palmer & Co.'s bill of $98. The little shirting borrowed from them for Floral Hall, I am told, was returned uninjured. I guess Floral Hall would have looked much better and have been arranged at a much less expense if the florists about the city had been allowed to take the matter into their own hands, (as they desired,) by their rival, the Secretary.

It has been with difficulty that we have obtained our thousand dollars a year from the State, and when we have got it, should we not see to it that the taxes of the people are well laid out?

A MEMBER.

EDUCATIONAL.

☞ Some articles designed for this department, must still lie over.—ED.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Education—its importance to farmers.

BY A LADY.

"The mind untaught, is a dark waste,
Where fiends and tempests howl."

The cultivation of mind and character, is of far more value to the farmer and his family, than the productiveness of his acres, or the increase and improvement of bleating flocks, or lowing kine.

The subject of family education, in its enlarged and liberal sense, is overlooked by far too many, who satisfy themselves by providing for their children the most common and inferior advantages. Absorbed in the business of clearing and improving their land, and in the details of their farming, some grudge the time, some the expense, others the trouble, neccessary for overcoming obstacles which are in the way of thoroughly educating their children, while some are so ignorant themselves, they cannot rightly value the blessing of intelligence for their children.

Education, *thorough*, *practical*, *correct*, is a subject of the *first* consequence to those who have a family, and to such, farming or any other business, should be followed as a means to that end.

The farmer may clear and till his land, and toil in his occupation, till his manly form is bowed down by his labors, his wife may pursue her daily round of domestic service, till care and hard work leave their ineffacable impress upon her form and face. He may rear a family of children, feed and clothe them with comfort and decency, and all about him may wear the air of prosperity and thrift, but if this is *all* he does, he fails, most emphatically, in all that adds true dignity and importance to him as a father of a family, and the head of a household, and indeed as cultivator of the soil.

He fails to benefit his race as he is bound to do, who neglects to educate, morally and intellectually, the children given to him, so that they are well fitted to act their part on the "world's broad field of battle;" if he fully meets and discharges his responsibilities as an educator, though he feeds them with coarse fare and clothes them in homespun, he is a benefactor of society, and though he may be himself an illiterate man, is yet laboring in his sphere, most hopefully and efficiently for the public good.

What a dignity invests him,—what a respect and reverence we feel for the man, who has, by the sweat of his brow, made the "waste land bud and blossom as the rose," and who while "lifting up axes upon the thick trees," and providing the comforts of life amid the toils and discouragements of a "new country," has kept constantly in view, and untiringly labored for the mental and moral culture of his children, and whose efforts, despite obstacles and discouragements, have been crowned with success. How serenely he reposes in the evening of life in his

comfortable home, with full granaries and waving orchards, and green meadows around him, telling of plenty for man and beast, while his cultivated and noble sons and daughters rise up and call him blessed, for he has bestowed upon them a rich patrimony, of which no reverses or misfortunes can deprive them. He has educated them *for*, and given them *to* the service of the world and humanity

[To be Continued.]

For the Michigan Farmer.

Duties of Teachers and Parents.

Adrain, Jan. 14, 1853.

MR. EDITOR:—

Believing that the thoughts of the numerous readers of the Farmer are to a great extent public property, and when worth anything, should be communicated by each for the benefit of the whole, I have been induced to cast about for some item of stock which might be thrown into the Farmer's bank, and prove beneficial, at least to a portion of your readers. The friends of education, whether themselves educated or not, would naturally desire to see that department of your paper properly represented, and hence the obligation of each to contribute his mite to the general fund. Education may be understood as embracing not only the branches usually taught in our schools, but also the equal developement of all the capacities of the entire man, physicial, intellectual and moral; and where due regard is not paid to each, the education may properly be considered defective, and the consequence an unhealty state of society; which, if it existed among us in Michigan, is the more to be deplored, from the fact that we enjoy facilities for promoting education, not enjoyed by all the States of the Union, and perhaps not excelled by any. So wise and liberal is our school system, that a common English education is within the reach of all who are disposed to avail themselves of the advantages it presents. In carrying out the system it is essential that the school house should be located in a healthy and pleasant situatiou, and so arranged as to admit of the greatest degree of comfort consistent with the confinement necessary in all well conducted schools.

In employing teachers, regard should always be had to qualifications rather than price, especially moral character, dignity in governing, and a capacity to impart to others the knowledge they possess. Thus furnished with house and teacher, parents and guardians may safely transfer their authority to the teacher for the time being, whose duty it will be to continue that course of instruction which it is reasonable to presume has been already commenced under the parental roof.—But, sir, is it not vain to expect any great degree of improvement from the effort of teachers alone, while parents stand aloof, as though their work in the mental and moral culture of their children was all done, and the entire responsibility of their future education rested with the teacher?—The business of teaching is undoubtedly mutual, and should be so regarded by both parents and teachers, each seconding the efforts of the other, to promote the improvement and future usefulness of the children.

(Concluded in next No.)

For the Michigan Farmer.

Scribbling from a careless pen,—No. 2.

DEAR FARMER:—I think Aurelia will not have cause to call again on the ladies of Michigan, for many I perceive, have "lent a helping hand," and "the work goes bravely on;" quite a variety we have in the last number:—Flora Mc'Iver's Wild Prairie Rose, emits quite a *poetic* fragrance.

Mr. R. Randall, jr., says, in speaking of "Schools and Schoolhouses," that, "the *brute* who would beat little chilldren now, would be justly abhorred and dismissed from employment."* Now, if he means to say that *correcting* a child with the rod, is considered *abhorent*, I would humbly beg leave to differ with him. I will not assert my *own* experience to prove it otherwise, but will refer him to "Page's Theory and Practice of Teaching," which work should be in the hand of every teacher. Page says:—"He who denies the neccessity of resorting to punishment, in our schools,—and to corporal punishment, too,—virtually affirms two things:—first, that this great number of children scooped up from all places, taken at all ages and in all conditions, can be deterred from the wrong, and attracted to the right, without punishment: and secondly, he asserts, that the five thousand persons whom the towns and districts employ to keep their respective schools, are now, and in the present condition of things, able to accomplish so glorious a work. Neither of these propositions am I at present prepared to admit."

Again, he says, "there may be occasionally a case, where a teacher may govern with moral power, but there are not many who can thus work at disadvantage, and the teacher," he says, "*has the right to establish authority by corporal infliction.*" Once more he says, it is the teacher's duty to establish authority: "peaceably, indeed, if he may,—*forcibly*, if he must"

I hold for myself, that it is not the *use* but the *abuse* of the rod, which transforms the teacher into the *brute*. I would ask the gentleman if he was ever called upon to teach the "young idea how to *fire*," and if he *always* found *moral suasion* sufficient to govern every school? If he has, most gladly would I emigrate to that blessed realm, and take up my abode among those meek enquirers after knowledge, and pursue a vocation which would then become a pleasure of which I have never yet tasted.

I would say to Aurelia that I hope to become better acquainted with her through the columns of the FARMER, and hope she will do me the favor to specify her place of residence. But I must close, for:—

"Night, sable goddess! from her ebon throne,
In rayless majesty, now stretches forth
Her leaden sceptre o'er a slumbering world."

And wishing you, dear FARMER, a happy good night, I remain yours respectfully,

VALERIA VALENCIE

* We did not understand Mr. R. that he eschewed all punishment.—ED.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

☞ We are flooded with communications for this department just now, on various subjects, and shall dispose of them as fast as possible, each in its turn. —Ed.

For the Michigan Farmer.

"In Search of a wife."

Mr. Isham, Dear Sir:—In my last I related my former history, and stated my present situation. For some time past, I have been *in search of a wife*. You may be directed in your advice to me, by learning the particulars of my enquiries.

First, I looked into the family of Mr. A. (of course I would be careful of descriptions, that would seem to be personal.)

Mr. A is a stirring, industrious farmer, who came into this state at an early day, and invested all his wealth, amounting to a few hundred dollars, in public lands.

His wife, too, is smart and frugal. By constant industry, they are now in good circumstances. They have a family of sons and daughters, some of whom are grown, while the others are fast following in their footsteps.

These girls are great workers. The great motive power operating in every department, evidently is—*business*,—in order to *make money*.

For a young man whose only wish is to get a wife "worth two hired girls," they would either of them exactly meet the requisition. But for me there are certain drawbacks in the case.—Just go with me and take a view of things.

The house is but partly completed below, and the second story a mere shell. There are distributed in glorious confusion, heaps of corn, boys' beds, spinning wheels, meal bags, flour barrels and smoked hams.

In front of the house is a rail fence, with a pig trough at right angles from beneath.

In the kitchen there will be found, morning, noon and night, washing, baking, churning, boiling and roasting. In preparing a meal, the single idea seems to be *enough of it placed within arm's length of each one*. Talk of order and taste, in setting a table, or of a time when heavy work should be superseded by a change of dress and comparative quiet, and they have no conception of it. What has this to do with making money?

Books they have none, except a bible and some school-books. Talk of the demoralizing influences of the trashy novel, and worthless newspapers! These will be injured by neither, for they never read anything.

I have no fear of their seeing this article, unless some mischievous neighbor should officiously call attention to it. Mr. A. does not believe in "book-farming," not he. He does not waste his time or money upon the Michigan,—or any other Farmer.

I next turned my thoughts to the family of Mr. B., a farmer, residing some 20 miles from us. In early times our families were neighbors. He and his wife began very much like Mr. A., but they trained their families very unlike.

To tell the truth, Mr. and Mrs. B. are a little "*uppish*" in their aspirations, and value property, rather for its utility in enabling them to rise in the world, than for the purpose of hoarding.

Not only did they send their daughters to the district school, but so soon as they had well entered their *teens*, they were sent abroad to the village boarding school.

There I admit, I hoped to find onewho should meet my expectations. Let me then introduce you to the place and family.

Here is a house well finished and enclosed.—Enter, and you discover at once, evidences of *taste*. Furniture, window curtains, centre tables, books, and magazines, with a piano; all strike your eye. The young ladies too, are *dressed*,—and *over-dressed*; so their language and manners are *genteel—super-genteel*. You see at once the airs and affectations which the boys continually express by,—"tried to and couldn't,"—that unerringly marks the distinction between genuine good breeding, and attempts at imitation.

Look over those books. They are tawdry annuals, second rate poetry, and the lastest novels. These magazines contain the latest Paris fashions, from which to the extent of their means, and without regard to the state of society, they copy. The standard by which dress, or conventional modes are tried, is "*the fashion*." They eat lettuce with their fingers, and hash with a three-pronged silver-plated fork, because *it is said* to be fashionable in Paris, and at the Astor House in New York. For the same reason they thrum on the piano, and work silk purses, needlebooks, and watch-guards.

They consider household duties, "most decidedly vulgar," leaving them to "ma" and "our hired girl."

In short, they have taken a degree above the occupation of their honest but injudicious parents, and present themselves as candidates for matrimony among "professional gentlemen."—So mote it be, even though I should for many years continue to be an Enquirer.

☞ Although the following is a little on the romantic order, yet it is so true to nature, and brings thronging around one so many pleasant reccollections of by-gone days, that we cannot deny it a place. It is introductory to some remarks on education which will follow next number.—

For the Michigan Farmer.

A Ramble back to New England.

Mr. Isham:—I present myself before you an aggrieved woman; one of your correspondents has rudely assailed one of the dearest, and most sacred memories of my childhood.

Now I will tell you how I had been employed the morning before the Farmer was brought in. I had been holding an imaginary correspondence with the Horticulturist, and in my reveries I had made a spirited appeal to the farmers, and had had a friendly and sympathising chat with their wives, had given a host of wise counsels to their daughters, and lots of encouragement to the sons, (by-the-by I am not young) had had a romp with their children, over the hills and far away,

and had written a plea for the flowers, and my reasons for loving, when memory suddenly caught the reins and sped away to old Connecticut to revel in the scenes of my early childhood.

Touched by the retrospective wand, I was a child again, scampering o'er hill and dale, flitting from scene to scene, and roving from haunt to haunt, treading the same paths, which my little bare feet had so often trodden forty years before.

Now I was driving the cows through the woods to their pasture, and rewarding myself with an arm full of honey-suckle blossoms when I return; and how deliciously fragraht they were, how unlike any other odor; its impression is still fresh to my nasal perceptions. Then I was eagerly stripping the green satin jacket from the sweet-birch sapling Oh! how delicious! who does not love birch?

And anon I was ranging the woods for honey-suckle apples, a delicious fruit made expressly for the good children of Connecticut. And then I was climbing the great ledge for whortleberries; and what daring deeds have I seen perpetrated there.

What terror feigned, or real, seized the little group, as some daring little imp would approach to the very verge of the over-hanging cliff, and lying down would peer over into what seemed to us an unfathomable abyss, of perhaps thirty or forty feet. Oh! what was Vesuvius and its crater to that ledge and its bear-hole and big black snakes. My feet still retain the sensation of a cold, long black thing glittering over them from under the bushes.

From the ledge I hurry over to the blackberry lot, where patches of the matted vines covered the ground, glistening with dew and the shining luscious fruit. But before we enter, a question of law and order must be settled, each little girl must promise that, as true as she lives and breathes, if she finds a thick spot, she will call her companions, and then the contest opens, we eagerly begin to pick, and the briers spitefully begin to scratch.—But I must away to the chesnut groves, and here a strong arm builds a battering-ram, in the shape of a huge stone against the tall straight trunks, and what a pelting the little expectant urchins take, while their merry ringing laugh, makes the tree-tops dance. O simple unconscious children, how little ye think that every careless little footprint has sunk deep into your little hearts, and that a transcript of every loved scene and childish pleasure is carefully stored away in the dark closet of memory, to be brought out for the solace of age when the eye is dim, and the footsteps falters.

But I am tired and will get on to that old mare, upon whose back I took my first lessons in horsemanship, and ride home, hoping that the girth is tight, and I shall come to such a sudden stop (after taxing my courage to get her into a pretty smart trot too) flat on my face, my breath quite a little distance off. How sheepish the old thing looked. But I have got home, this is the same little yard and garden. There is my dear old rose-bush by the stone wall, all scragged and mossed over with the scurf of years. But if I had the whole tribe to command, that old rose for what it then was to me, should have the grand-dame's corner. There is my wee-bit of a flower-bed under the wall, in close neighborship with the smellage and comfrey.

But I will go in. Yes, this is the same door where I used to sit with my sewing; and I must go through granny's room, but I do not like to stop there since she died. And here I am in the bright cheerful kitchen; the old peel and tongs stand as tall and stiff as ever in the ample corner, while the dresser and floor are fairly luminous from their whiteness. I am weary and will go up to my little bed-room; and now the same old feeling of loneliness creeps over me again; I have no light, but a faint gleam from nature's night lamp, reveals to me the outlines of my bed, and with what a peculiar feeling I spring into it, happy enough that my feet were not clutched in the dark. But I am all alone and I am afraid of the mice. And what can a poor lonely child do to scare away unpleasant thoughts, but say her prayers not once, but over and over till sleep comes to her rescue. I am awake bright and early to find all my lonely feelings gone with the darkness, and the bright sun peeping in at my window. To-day I am going to school; this is the way, right in the face of the sun. Everything gives me a smile of recognition, even the mayweed beside the way, all but the little streaked ---------- who stops midway of the path and gives me a hiss of defiance. But here is the old benevolent penstock, always ready to pour a stream of cold water into the thirsty mouths of little boys and girls, and a few rods further on is the cider-mill, and we are so thirsty again, we must stop and suck cider out of the great tub with a straw. But I must hasten on a few more steps, and I shall see the meeting-house. Yes, there it is the same old-fashioned square-built thing, with doors on three sides of it, standing on the triangular village-green. Oh! that beautiful green, thickly dotted over with the bright yellow blossoms, that set squat down upon the green-grass without stems or leaves, their broad dutch faces turned laughingly up to the sunlight. Cheerful, contented, happy-looking flower; this childish reccollection will always secure to you a nook in my affections. Let refinement laugh at your old yellow dress if she dare; hold your head proudly up, for the hand that arrayed you never erra. But there is the mistress and I must hasten on; but I must not run, for that is against the rule, and a penalty is attached; and I must not be late for here hangs a penalty. I seize upon the dernier resort, and fall into a pace somewhat resembling the flying walk of a goose, which takes me along nearly as fast as running would.

MICHIGAN FARMER.

WARREN ISHAM, EDITOR.

DETROIT, APRIL, 1853.

University and State Agricultural School.

So then the MICHIGAN FARMER is to be laid under the bar as an enemy to the University, because it was a little *offish* about connecting with it our State Agricultural School—*Indeed!*

And is that the way to make out a case? Is that the way to convict us of hostile intentions? Is not that the place to learn logic? And is this the sort of logic there taught, that because we are disinclined to such a step, therefore it follows, that we are "*unfriendly*" to the Institution? What sort of logical acumen is that, which would yoke such a conclusion to such premises?

To be "friendly" to the Institution, must a man go all lengths for it, and be unfriendly to everything else? Because the interests of the University require it, must he therefore, and therefore *alone* go in for giving it the control of our State Agricultural School? Are we to have our heads chopped off, if we so much as pause over this question, and put in a query, whether the interests of the Agricultural School itself would be best promoted by such a connection? Are the interests of the University to be regarded as *everything*, and those of the Agricultural School as *nothing*, in the settlement of this question? It strikes us, that *that* is putting on the screws a little too tight.

It really seems as though the University thought that it must blot the Michigan Farmer from existence, or be itself blotted from existence by the Michigan Farmer! What short of this could bring down from his place a grave professor, to take the field against us? Don't be alarmed, gentlemen! we have no thoughts of blotting out the University. Ask our *fifty thousand* readers if we have; they know.

On the other hand, we have done all we could to help you—always have, and this is what we get for it.

But you say you will have an agricultural department *any how*, and will have lectures, &c.—Very good, go ahead, we would not blow a feather in your way, and as you will be very likely to be "a little short of timber" at the start, we will do all we can to help you to lecturers. Among others, we know of a man out West now lying upon his oars, who would be glad of the chance, and he has this prime qualification, that he has sworn to destroy the Michigan Farmer. He would even pay handsomely for the priviledge, and the amount might be laid out in books, or otherwise, as the case might require.

Floundering.

The *Genesee Farmer* blusters mightly about its circulation in this State. Now, gentlemen, keep cool, and take notice, that *we* know more about your circulation here that any other human being, except yourselves; and *we know*, that it has diminished more thrn one-half already. Two years ago a single club of 225, commanding, we think, your first premium, went from this State. One of the persons instrumental in getting up that club, informed us a few days ago, that this year, they were not able to raise enough to get any premium at all, or if any, a very meagre one.

Another writes, that out of a very large club, raised for you in years past, only two were left, and one of them has "promised to take the Michigan Farmer in its stead." And we have at least fifty letters of the same import, which we can show to anyone who is curious to see them. We often hear the remark, that the *Genesee Farmer* will not be able to stand much longer.

Now, gentlemen, don't be in a fret—these things are so, and cannot be helped. And it will avail you little to attempt to play your old game upon our letters from England. Your low slang against us is unworthy a respectabled journal, and it is but too plain an indication of your *breeding*. And remember that a man with his ears already nailed to the counter, will only increase his agonies by floundering.

The time has been, when you were great in this this State, and we small, and you could be impudent with impunity, but the tables are turned, and the same attempt at putting on airs now, but ill becomes you. Instead of being two to our one, as formerly, all accounts agree, that you are only about one to our ten now.

We add, that time will determine who tells the fibs, and farther, that we have the means of convicting you of a far grosser plagiarism, than you have signally failed to inflict upon us.

P. S.—It appears from the last number of the *Genesee Farmer*, that it has a *woman* in this State to look to its interests. We have no doubt she will put forth all her womanly might to keep up its dying interests, and we sincerely hope she will succeed.

Treatise on the Grape.—We have received from C. M. Saxon, the great New York Agricultural book publisher, a beatiful volume of 326 pages, the celebrated treatis on the grape vine, by J. Fiske Allen, embracing its history, with directions for its treatment in the United States of America, in the open air, and under glass stuctures, with and without artificial heat, *third edition, enlarged*. It is got up in Saxton's best. All who care to cultivate this most delicious of fruit, should have it.

A word from the Empire State.

A correspondent in the state of New York, who had accidentally fallen upon two or three numbers of the Michigan Farmer, writes, "I like your correspondents generally; I like the honest, candid way they have of chatting with you; I like the frank, hearty way they insist on your coming to see them. The intelligent, patient research of the editor, too, observable in the information so fraternally given, and received with such unaffected, remunerative warmth, is something new, and fascinating to m. '

Livingston County Agricultural Society.

The proceedings of this new organization, have come to hand, but we find it impossible to publish them at length. We are glad to see the movement in that fine agricultural county, a county abounding in intelligent and enterprising farmers. The officers are, Ira Jennings, President; E. F. Burt, Secretary, and Nelson G. Isbell, Ephriam J. Hardy, A. W. Olds, James M. Murry and John Howe, Executive Committee, and 16 Vice Presidents.

Great sheep-shearing festival.

We invite attention to Mr. Bingham's advertisement of his Sheep Shearing Festival, the object of which, is to give every man an opportunity to judge for himself of the yield of his flock.—Last year it was attended by large numbers.

Good!

One of our agents in transmitting a club, takes pains to inform us that the majority of those embraced in it are *Englishmen*, who never took the MICHIGAN FARMER before.

Working Farmer.—This staunch agricultural paper still mantains its high position, and comes monthly laden with rich stores of instruction for the agriculturist. We believe the impression has prevailed, to some extent, that Prof. Mapes has dissolved his connection with it, but this is not so—he is still its principal editor, and he is a host in himself.

☞ We are sorry to be obliged to say, that so unexpectedly great has been the rush of new subcribers, that our January No. has run out, and cannot be furnished to new subscribers coming in, until we can make arrangements for printing a new edition.

To Correspondents.—Some communications intended expressly for this number are necessarially laid over.

The following, though designed probably for the Ladies' Department, will do just as well in the men's:—

For the Michigan Farmer.

City and country.—The old man's prayer

DETROIT, Feb. 11th, 1853.

MR. ISHAM SIR.:—I noticed in the FARMER of last month an appeal to the ladies of Michigan, to let the world see that they have got a few ideas in their heads. Therefore I now respond to the call by writing a few words.

I am a resident of this city, but spent the last Sabbath in the country, a few miles distant; and a lovelier, happier, or more useful Sabbath I never expect to spend again. Being somewhat fatigued by my ride the evening before, I did not rise until the sun had reached the tops of the trees, some half-a-mile distant, and a lovlier rising of the sun I never beheld. As it gently rose above the horizon, it quietly dispelled the clouds that remained over head, until you could see thousands upon thousands, millions up on millions of sparkling diamonds upon the snow.

There was not the noise and bustle so common in our city on the Sabbath day morning, but all was still, calm, and beautifully sublime, and as I viewed that scenery, and beheld the splendid farms round about me, as far as the eye could reach, I thought, how happy the farmer must be, to spend his life in the midst of a scene like this, and I felt to exclaim, give me the solitude of a farmer's life, together with its many enjoyments, and I will give you the pleasures of a city life, together with its many disappointments.

But to my subject, I went to their church, but instead of anything like the costly edifices we have in this city, it was nothing but a schoolhouse. I entered it, and was struck with the cheerful countenances of all present. On the one side sat the matrons with their daughters, in their homespun dresses, and with natural waists, but there was the glow of health upon their cheeks, no sign of consumption lurked about them, the girl of eighteen appeared as fresh as girls of ten, and the matrons of sixty, as active and vigorous as our ladies of thirty.

On the other side, sat the farmers, with their robust sons. They had not the stiff proud look, or delicate hands and pale faces of our city gents, but their looks were pleasant and affable, their hands were hardened by manual labor, and their facesbetokened exercise in the open air. They too, were in their homespun clothes, but I felt to say, rather let me choose for a husband a farmer's son, than one of the delicate sons of the city.

The pastor chose for his text the 25th and the two following verses of the 21st chapter of Matthew, and from that he delivered an able discourse. It was not a flowery show of words merely, but a simple, touching appeal to the heart, an appeal that reached my heart, and I dare say the hearts of all that heard him. After ending the sermon, he called on an aged man, over whose head I should think as much as eighty summers had passed, to lead in prayer.—The old man knelt down, and with his trembling voice, raised his petitions on high with such fer-

vency and heart-thrilling interest, that I could not help thinking he must indeed be happy, though so old and infirm, and wished my latter days may be like his, yea, my feelings were such, that I have vainly endeavored to express them in the few stanzas following:—

The old man's prayer.

Once as I roamed the forest wild,
I heard an old man's prayer;
With eyes uplifted high, he cried,
O God! in mercy spare
The crimes, that slew the God of love,
For now he reigns above.

Then with the trembling voice of age,
He cried, my God! my King!
My tottering steps shall find the grave,
But may my soul yet sing
The songs of my Redeemer's love,
In that sweet clime above.

Oh! how my soul did thrill with joy
To hear the old man's prayer,
For happiness without alloy,
Will be his portion there;
'Twas then I prayed to meet above
That sweet old man of love.

That old man's prayer did fill my soul
With thanks to God on high,
That I might find my Saviour's fold,
And meet in yonder sky,
The one that shed for me his blood,
Then died and rose above.

Yours truly LAURA S***

[Please write again.—ED]

For the Michigan Farmer.

Another letter from that farmer and miller.

ROLLIN, LENAWEE CO. MICH., March 1853.

FRIEND ISHAM:—Enclosed please find $2, which place to my credit for the MICHIGAN FARMER, and much oblige a friend to improvement in agriculture.

By-the-by, I have a few remarks to make, which, if worth notice, are at thy disposal. I have been engaged the last five years in milling and farming both. I am not well posted up in relation to the number of bushels of wheat shipped from this state annually, and will leave each farmer and miller to make their own figures as to loss or gain.

I verily believe that with a united effort of both farmer and miller, we can outdo any other state in the Union, in quality of wheat and flour. I was born and raised in Monroe Co., N. Y., where the famous Genessee wheat and flour come from, (except what comes from Michigan, as remarked by J. R. W., in thy Pickings by the Way,) and never saw as good a lot of wheat in Monroe Co., as I have bought this past winter, amounting to nearly or quite thirteen thousand bushels, weighing from sixty to sixty-five pounds to the bushels, the latter not very rare. I have endeavored to encourage farmers by paying an extra price for extra wheat, and think I can see a satisfactory improvement in quality. By taking this course, we shall find no difficulty in getting as much for our wheat and flour in N. Y. as those of Genessee,—which every one can see, "by reading quotations" would save at least four to five cents on every bushel that is ground and packed for eastern market.

This is not all guess-work, for I have had no trouble in selling my flour in the same market with what is called pure Genessee, fifty cents above their quotations.

My rule is to get first-rate wheat, and use four and a half bushels to make a barrel of flour and mark extra in first-rate barrels.

Now to bring this about we must be united—The farmer must enrich his soil with the right kind of manure (which I believe is taken from under a shed where sheep have been kept through the winter), use sparingly, for it is strong. Plow very deep, and use the cultivator freely; sow from one-and-a-fourth to one-and-a-half barrels to the acre; cultivate again and roll from first to to fifteenth of ninth month,—September,—with as clean seed as we can get, and my word for it, if farmers clean their wheat once through a good fanning-mill, after it leaves the separator,—and next the miller do his duty, we may soon outrival either and all of the United States in quality and price. Farmers and millers figure to suit yourselves. This costs nothing, and my mind is somewhat relieved. Farewell for this time.

WILLIAM BEAL.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Horse Shoeing.

MR. ISHAM:—I have been a reader of the Farmer for some time, and have been pleased to read the exchange of thoughts of Farmers on the varied branches of farming and husbandry, but I have not seen any discussion on the proper or improper mode of shoeing horses. As the shoeing of horses is intimately connected with the Farmer's business, I propose to open the subject by suggesting a few things to be practiced in shoeing a horse properly. But before proceeding, I wish to say we make no pretentions to perfection in shoeing, but would rather learn of others, than to lead off in a discussion of this subject. But as there is a diversity of notions about horse shoeing, and very erroneous ones too, I am desirous to see some system practiced in shoeing this noble animal.

Suppose we are going to shoe a sound horse, or at least, one whose feet are sound, the shoe or barr of the shoe should be wide at the toe, and become narrow as it approaches the heel, where it should be quite narrow, taking care to place the toe cork in the centre of the shoe, and to shape the shoe to the horse's foot, not the foot to the shoe, making a point at the ball of the foot, where the shoe should commence to decrease in breadth.—'t should run back under the heel; the back nail should be about the ball or swell of the foot.—Nails should be thin but wide headed and short. In paring, care should be taken to have the heel and frog unmolested, paring the toe to give the proper shape to the foot. The shoe should be wider than the foot at the heel, but should be narrow enough to come directly under the horn of the

foot, where the brace that runs from the frog forms a junction with the out side shell. Care should be taken to leave the shoe dishing leaving a vacuum on the inside of the shoe, throwing the weight of the horse on the outside of the foot.

T. J. LANGDON.

Flat River, Kent Co.

For the Michigan Farmer

Draining.

FRIEND ISHAM, SIR:—It is with diffidence I accept of your invitation to say something about draining land. If I have any claim to knowledge in draining, it is mostly practical, being derived principally from a settlement of Scotch agriculturists near me, more than from books, and I could wish there were planted in every agricultural township in Michigan a dozen such, that by their example of industry, skill and perseverance, they might excite in our noble-minded Michiganders a spirit of ambition. Seeing the success of my Scotch neighbors in reclaiming the most worthless lands to a state of beauty and productiveness, and as by magic raising their value to double that of the best up-lands adjoining. I observed their plans, watched their operations, and marked the result, and thus was lead to undertake for myself. If I say anything that appears to others unreasonable, I trust from the kindness I have received from the people here, during my seven years' acquaintance, they will impute it to nothing worse than my not having kept up with the times, and will show their hands by correcting my errors.

There are but few farms in Michigan, I know of none in my region, so dry but there are ranges that would be better for draining. But so much has been well said of the various methods that will apply to rolling land, that I can add nothing to the stock. My business is with the marshes so peculiar to Michigan. We have three distinct kinds of mashes, that should be treated each according to their geologicial structure, otherwise we are liable to make great sacrifice where no benefit can be derived. One kind of foundation, is quick sand, saturated with water that rises from the bottom. These are mostly inland from any principal stream of water, and often surrounded with a bank, apparently having no outlet. Wherever they are, they will not warrant the expense of draining. I have tried many ways and at considerable expense, to drain in quick sand, but never could make them durable. Happily such marshes are comparatively few. I know but little about the cranberry, but if it is as easily propagated as some represent, perhaps it might be well to set them in such places.*

There is another kind of marshes that rest on clay bottom, and still another that appears to be an accumulation of vegetable matter spread on a body of water. Such marshes are generally either directly or indirectly connected with a sluggish stream of water. Those bordering on the stream are nearly level with the shore, but a little back, often ascending a little, extending some miles into the interior.

These two last kinds of marshes may, for all purposes of improvement, be confounded together, for they are equally susceptible of improvement by drainage, and with the same process they may with very little expense be rendered beautiful and abundantly productive of clover and timothy grass, as well as all kinds of grain except wheat. However, large wheat straw may grow, it will not fill for want of the necessary chemical properties in the soil Why so many have undertaken to drain, and are not satisfied with the result is, that they did not understand the business. They have dug a deep ditch thro' the centre, sometimes two or three parellel ditches; and some, to be more thorough, have still added transverse ditches; all this, instead of being beneficial, is a three fold injury; drawing off the surface water, diminishing the quantity and injuring the quality of the grass, without fitting it to produce a better kind. It mars the beauty, and raises obstructions in the way of cultivation.

Now for my plan of draining marshes. The sluggish streams above alluded to, are obstructed with flood-wood, alders and willows, and a variety of other trash. The freshets to which they are subject, flow over all the marshes connected with them, and in their present state, I know of no way to effectually drain them. In the bottom of these streams there lies a deep sediment, and by removing the obstructions, the force of the water in time of freshets, would sweep it off so as to settle the current far below the banks. We have many samples of this, particularly in the Mohawk River, where for boating the obstructions were removed, and the river immediately fell many feet below its banks. Having removed the obstructions, and the water being lowered to the hard pan, we are ready for draining the marshes. If we do nothing more than remove the obstructions from the stream, the health of the people require so much, and in this way alone it will abundantly pay. I think if managed right, it will not prove as heavy a job as it first appears. Let every man that improves land, clear the stream the length of his improvements, and the united efforts of a few neighbors a few days in each year on the improved lands in the vicinity, would soon do the work. When there are two or more marshes in connection, the lower one should be drained first, to provide an outlet for all those above.

To plan drains correctly, we must understand the geologicial position of our marsh. All marshes that are susceptible of draining, are saturated with water that flows in between the soil and subsoil. With some it is but one spring, with others a trail of springs. It is only necessary to collect these springs in one current, and carry them off, and the work is done. There are two things to be learned, 1st, where the springs are, and 2d, how to carry them off. A practiced eye can tell at a glance where they are, by observing that the grass in the vicinity of springs is of a sickly color, and the grass of a worthless rush kind.

Having found where the springs are, I would draw a ditch at the border of the marsh, so as to take the whole in train. Having the water thus collected, carry it by the most direct course to its destination. The ditch shohld be so deep below the soil that the current may run in the sub-soil to prevent leakage. I have usually made them

from three and a half to four feet deep, and about fifteen inches wide. My method has been to place two rows of stone in the bottom of the ditch three or four inches apart, and on the centre a cap stone. Level and chinck with small stones. Then spread a layer of straw, and return the dirt; see that the dirt is well packed by treading or beating with a mall.

Often among springs we have to encounter viens of quick sand. I have found no better way to manage them than to place a board in the bottom, and drive moss in at the outside of the stones. In running to the outlet, if the alluvial substance extends below the bottom of the ditch, it will do no injury, provided the current runs the depth of four feet below the surface. The water that leaks will not rise to the surface.

In some regions stone is not to be found. Tile is doubtless the best article, and it can be made in any part of Michigan at a moderate expense. It is doubtful whether cylinders can be underlaid with teams and machinery as in England, on account of the hardness of the subsoil around the borders of our marshes.

Land thus drained, requires no open ditches to let off the surplus water. For the Earth, as man, requires drink as well as food, and no more will fall in ordinary seasons, than is necessary to keep it in a healthy state. All it will require is, that when tilled, the face of it be so left as to let off a superabundence that may occasionally fall, as a skillful agriculturist will do on any other land.

If it is objected, that my process is too slow, I reply, that the most of my experience was obtained before everything was made to run on *all fours*. My business had to be done *step by step*. Since fire has become the motive power, I can't keep up with the times. Let some that can, tell us a better way, till then I shall remain of the opinion, that as our marshes have been indispensible to the new settler, and as they yet continue profitable, it is better to use them so, till they can be thoroughly drained, than to spoil them by sham draining.†

A. ISEELL.

Howell, Livingston Co.

* Foul meadow grass would also doubtlless do well in such marshes.—ED.

† Right.—ED.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Post Timber and Post Setting.

Experience teaches me that red elm is far better than cherry, butternut quite as good as red elm, and sassafras better than either, even as good as the best of oak. Oak crotches are most desirable for gate posts, as they are more durable than plain straight timber, because more dense and of firmer texture; they should be set of course, with the but in the ground, so that the shoulder or croch shall appear three or four inches above the ground. These make lasting gate posts, and the larger the better. I have become satisfied that the oak of the same comparative size, and cut at the same time, which bears the sweetest acorn is the most durable. Red, or black oak is less durable than white oak, and white oak less durable than burr, I think sometimes called swamp oak, but grows on high timbered land. And with the contrast we find in the fruit of the white oak alone—some yielding sweet fruit and others much less so—the same difference may be observed in the durability of each.

There has been a mistaken notion that posts will last longer in sandy land than in clay. In such earth which is most porous, timber or wood will rot soonest, (sometimes called hungry soil,) and upon such soil, any material put upon the surface around the post. to seclude that part of the post under ground from atmospheric action gives it durability.

W. H. ROWE.

Adrian, Feb. 1853.

Essay on the Cultivation of Indian Corn,

For which first premium was awarded by the Michigan State Agricultural Society.

BY J. F. CHUBB.

There is no crop, perhaps, more beneficial to the farmer of Michigan, than the Indian corn; and it may be considered on many accounts, viz: its growing importance as an article of exportation to foreign countries, its nutritious qualities as an article of food both for man and beast; the large amount that can be produced on a given quantity of land; the certainty upon which we can calculate upon a crop, when properly cultivated, and the profits attending its production, to the farmer, to be entitled to the first in rank as a staple production of the country. A certain eminent agriculturist called it "the meal, meadow, and manure of the farm."

Although there is a greater certainty attending its production than that of almost any other kind of grain crop, and although it will adapt itself to almost any sort of soil, both as to kind and quality, yet there are two important requisites to its *profitable* cultivation. The first is a soil that is adapted to its growth; the second that the crop be well fed and cultivated. The soil then should be rather light and dry, made rich with manure if not naturally so, for although it *will grow* on land rather poor, it nevertheless is an enormous feeder. Ordinarily it costs as little, if not less, to cultivate a good crop with suitable land properly cultivated, as it does a poor crop under other circumstances. Thus the man who gets 32 bushels per acre, reckoning it at 3 shillings per bushel, and the cost of cultivation and use of land at $12 per acre, (which it need not exceed,) barely gets a compensation for his labor and pay for the use of his land. Whatever, then, the product falls short of this, is an absolute loss, and whatever it may exceed is a nett gain. Suppose then, one man gets only 25 bushels per acre, (which is too often the case.) he loses upon this estimate $11,88, upon a field of five acres; while he who raises 80 bushels per acre, (as any one may and ought to do,) realizes a nett profit of $90, or a clear profit of $18 per acre.

But we will proceed to a *rationale* of its production. The soil then. we have already hinted. should be light and dry, which embraces those de-

nominated as sandy, gravelly, and loamy. Corn will not succeed well on wet or stiff soils. The roots extend to a great depth,and the soil must be loose to admit of their free extension.

The manure used may be of almost any kind, such as barn yard and stable dung, plaster Paris, (sulphate of lime) and ashes. The first two should be applied plentifully,and thoroughly mixed with the soil. The latter are usually applied as a top dressing to the crop when first up. Long unfermented manure is to be preferred. It decomposes as the wants of the plant require, while its mechanical operation in rendering the soil light and porous is benificial to the crop. But this rule may perhaps have its exceptions on very light sandy soil, naturally inclined to be too light and dry. A farther argument in favor of unfermented manure is that while it continues to afford fresh nutriment to the roots of the corn till it has matured. it is in its place to benefit the succeeding crop, and is as nearly beneficial to it as if permitted to remain in the open yard till it is throughly rotted, losing its strength by the repeated washing of the rain, and the absorption of the rays of the sun. I have applied with the best of success as a top dressing, a compound composed of one part plaster of Paris, one of slacked lime and two of ashes, at the rate of about a half a gill to the hill, immediately after the corn appears above the ground, sufficiently to follow the rows. I do not consider the time as important to the growth of the corn as either of the other ingredients.

The best preparation for corn is green sward, or a clover or other grass, well covered with long manure, as before stated, neatly plowed to the depth of at least 10 inches, and completely turned over. The best plow for this use that I have used or ever seen is "Smith's subsoil plow," or double plow. The forward plow cutting and completely turning over the turf, while the hind plow throws up the under soil to the depth of 4 or 5 inches, and completely covers the turf, leaving the earth on the surface light and lose. After plowing, the roller should be passed over to even the surface, and followed with a thorough harrowing lengthwise of the furrows. The time for performing these operations depends upon the kind of soil. If clay, it may be done with advantage in the fall, but in general I prefer the spring plowing, and as near the time of planting as may be. The harrowing, at least, should immediately precede the planting. When corn is preceded by a tilled crop, it should be furrowed out about three inches deep with a light plow,and for the smaller varieties of corn about 3 1-2 feet apart each way, and should be perfectly straight. For on this depends much of the facility of the after cultivation of the crop with the cultivator. The old proverb that "the most hills grow in a crooked row," should be entirely discarded. On sod ground the rows should be superficially marked out with a marker fitted for the purpose, and the corn planted nearly on the surface.

The time of planting will vary in different districts and in different seasons in the same district. The ground should be allowed to get sufficiently warm and dry to insure a speedy germination.—Natural vegetation affords the best guide. An old rule is, "when the oaks look gray then plant away." Another is when the apple is bursting its blossom buds, which is from the 15th to the 25th of May. Corn will usually do well planted any time in the month of May, the early varieties requiring only 90 to 100 days to mature from the seed.

For the kind of seed much depends on the soil and latitude: on the heavier soils or in frosty locations, the smaller varieties of eight rowed corn will succeed best. Under other circumstances many prefer the larger and later varieties. as that of the dent corn, &c. In this district I have uniformly succeeded best with what is termed the "red blaze white corn," which is an early variety, and although small in growth of stalks, with proper soil and tillage, it may easily be made to yield from 75 to 100 bushels to the acre.

Preparation of seed. After having tried various modes of preparation recommended, I have come to the conclusion that the best way is to plant the corn dry, in its natural state, where it is not necessary to do otherwise as a preventative of the depredations of animals or insects, of which I shall speak hereafter. The various steps recommended, if not cautiously used, frequently endanger the vegetating power of the seed.

Manner of planting is ordinarially in hills,and where it is extensively cultivated it is the only practical mode. Small and highly cultivated parcels of land may perhaps be made to yield more by planting in drills; but the cheapest and consequently the best mode of growing corn, is to plant it in hills and rowed both ways, that the labor of cultivation may principally be done with the horse and cultivator. From four to six kernels should be put in a hill, allowing some for failure, which may be thinned out to four at the time of hoeing.

The after culture consists in keeping the earth lose and clean from weeds, and this should always be done whether it requires once or three times dressing. Generally, if the plowing has been well done, all that will be necessary will be as soon as the corn is up say two inches, to pass through the rows each way with the cultivator, followed by the hoe, to adjust the plants or stir the earth near the hills, where the cultivator did not reach. This will be all the hoeing required. The cultivator should be passed through sufficiently often to keep the earth light and clean. The old method of earthing or hilling up, has, with propriety been discontinued by all good farmers. The surface of the earth should be kept open and smooth as possible.

One of the best crops that I ever raised was a field of ten acres the year past on a clover sod. The land was formerly burr oak plain, had been under cultivation 12 years without manure,about half the time in grass, having had but one previous crop of corn on it. The crop was cultivated "at the shares," the plowing (poorly done) about four inches deep, indifferently hoed and cultivated twice over. The yield was 25 bushels to the acre. The labor in the cultivation of this crop exceeded that expended on my last year's crop, which yielded 80 bushels to the acre, a report of which, as made at the annual meeting of our county society, is hereto appended.

Harvesting the crop. The best plan, I am satisfied, is that of cutting it up close to the ground as soon as the ear becomes fairly glazed, and setting up in stooks, to stand till sufficiently dry to husk. The mode of doing this is as follows: A hoe ground sharp, with a short handle, or a piece of an old scythe with a shank suitably turned and handle fitted, is made use of as the instrument, with which, at a single blow, a hill can be cut up: a man cutting and setting up about an acre a day. About five rows are taken for a row of stooks, setting the corn around every fifth hill of the middle row, making 25 hills in the stook, (without laying the corn down on the ground,) and tying it lightly at the top with a band of straw. If the stooks are well set up so as to stand perpendicular, the corn will dry without moulding, let the weather be what it may, and at the same time the stalks preserved bright for feed for cattle; the value of which is no small item in the profits of the crops. The fodder of one acre of a fair crop, if well preserved, being worth at least as much as a ton of hay.

Saving seed. The fairest and soundest ears, and from such as have two ears to the stalk, should, at the time of husking, be selected for seed. A few husks left on the ear with which to braid them in traces, and then hang suspened in the corn house or some other dry place, for seed. By following this mode of selectiug seed from the most productive spears a series of years, the increase of the crop may be greatly enlarged, as I have proven by actual experiment.

In securing the fodder some precaution must be used. The butts being large, will not become dry as soon as the ear is in order to husk, and if packed in a mow would heat and mould. To avoid this, when husking I bind the stalks in convenient sized bundles,and draw them to the place of feeding and stack them in stacks around a pole, so small in diameter that all the butts are exposed to the air, carrying the stack as high as they can be conveniently pitched.

The enemies to be combated in raising a crop of corn, are birds, squirrels, wire worms, and brown grub or cut worm. The first three prey upon the kernel, and the mode of prevention is as follows: Soak the seed in warm water till fully swelled, then for each bushel of corn take one quart of tar, sufficiently dilutated with hot water to enable it to give a coating to the whole seed, when stirred and thoroughly mixed through it. For the convenience of planting, as much plaster may be stirred in after the tar as will adhere to it. This remedy I have repeatedly tried and have never had it fail as a guard against birds and squirrels, but also against all domestic fowls, as nothing will eat the corn when coated with tar.

The grub or cut worm works by eating off the spear close to the surface, immediately on its coming up. The ashes recommended as a top dressing manure immediately on being applied, are usually a check to its depredations.

I have detailed the preceding facts and method of producing this valuable crop, not with a view to vaunt of superior skill, (or in mentioning my own crop,) of the fertility of my own soil, but to show that good crops, by proper management, can be produced cheaply, and that a little observation and experience will convince the most skeptical that this branch of agricultre is not yet brought to a state of perfection; and that there is yet room for *improvement*.

Extract of an Essay on the Cultivation of Potatoes.

For which 1st premium was awarded by the Michigan State Agricultural Society.

BY S. H. PRESTON.

There are two distinct kinds of potatoes—the Irish and the sweet. The former is chiefly cultivated in the northern, and the latter in the southern states. The best known varieties of the Irish potatoes, are kidneys or foxites, early kidney, meshannock or mercer, pinkeyes, St. Helena, Saut Ste. Marie, Mackinaw, blue, orange, rohan, merinoes, long reds, white blue nose, silver lake, peach blow, English whites, Scoch greys, Sardinians, Bakewells, and door-yards.

New varieties are produced from plants obtained from sowing the seed contained in the potatoe ball. When varieties are planted near each other the blossoms of each sometimes mix and cross, so that the seed of the ball, when sowed, may possibly produce an improved variety, partaking of the qualities of each. Good sized potatoes are not obtained from the seed of the ball till the second or third year. To obtain potatoes from the seed in the ball, the plant may be forced in a hot bed and transplanted.

The soil best adapted to the culture of potatoes, is a deep rich sandy loam. New broke up land, or a fresh clover of grass ley, made rich by incorporating with the soil, calcareous marl and unfermented manure, mixed with the muck that can be easily obtained from marshes, will produce a good crop of potatoes.

The land designed for potatoes, unless a very tough old grass ley, should be plowed early in the spring, turning under a good dressing of unfermented manure, harrowed till made mellow, and furrows then marked out with a plow to the depth of four inches, and 2 1-2 to 3 feet apart; the latter distance is preferred by us. The planting is usually done across the furrows, if marked only one way, by dropping a half or two halves of a potatoe in each furrow,making the rows straight; the seed is either covered by the hoe or plow in hills three feet apart, each way. There is a saving of seed by cutting the potatoes, and it is believed to be equally as good, if not better than planting whole potatoes. Experiments frequently tried, exhibit no material difference between the planting with whole or cut tubers. From the liability of potatoes to rot, which by some is supposed to be increased by the fermentation of long manure, none should be placed in the hill; but equal parts of salt, ashes, plaster, air slacked lime, pulverized chacoal and bone dust, especially equal parts of plaster. Charcoal and bone dust, if to be had, may, to great advantage be added to the hill before covering, increasing the yield and in a measure lessening the danger from disease.

As soon as the potatoes are up so as to discern the rows, let the cultivator or a light plow,drawn

by one horse, pass between the rows, as near the hills as possible, subduing the weeds, stirring the earth, making it light and mellow. and if a little earth should happen to be thrown onto the young plants, it will do no injury. Plaster or ashes are a very useful top dressing for the young plants, scattered about the hills. After a few days the cultivator or plow should again pass between the rows, followed by the hoe, hauling the earth about each plant so as to have a flat broad hill, rather concave than convex, so as to retain moisture. A certain quantity of moisture being absolutely necessary for a large yield of potatoes; but an excess is supposed to be one of the causes of the rot. After the first hoeing, the weeds should be kept subdued by the cultivator or plow, and if a second hoeing is deemed necessary, it should be done before the tops begin to blossom; after this the potatoes should not be touched, but permitted to ripen. As soon as the tops are dead, or nearly so, the potatoes may be thrown out of the hill by the double mould-board plow, the potatoe hook, or as is more frequently the custom, harvested by pulling the tops with the hands and diging the tubers with a hoe.

Sweet potatoes. As a luxury for the table, a sufficient quantity of these potatoes can by every farmer be cultivated, with a little extra trouble. To preserve the slips through the winter, intended for seed in the spring, is attended with the most difficulty. A careful seclusion from air and and light, frost and moisture, is very essential.—This may be done by carefully placing the slips in layers of sand, thoroughly dried, and putting them away in some safe place in the cellar. Early in the spring, the slips are placed in a hot bed, two or three inches apart, and covered to the depth of two or three inches with a rich loam.—After the sprouting of the slips, the plants should be carefully taken from the hot bed by placing the hand over the potatoe slip, so as to prevent it from leaving the hot bed, and taking hold of the sprout with the other hand as near the potatoe slip as possible, and pull it off.

By leaving the slip in the hot bed, more sprouts will be formed in eight or ten days, and the sprouts planted without the slip is more likely to be free of small stringy potatoes. The ground for transplanting should be a deep rich sandy loam, plowed deep into ridges and made mellow. At night, or just before a rain, following the same rule as is observed in transplanting cabbage plants, the sprouts, if in ridges, should be got out eight to twelve inches apart, the ridges being at least three feet apart. If in hills, one or two sprouts, three inches apart, making a large hill with a hollow surface, so as to hold a half pint of water, four feet apart each way, as the vines spread and run, requiring considerable room for the sun and moisture.

The after culture is very similar to that required for the tomato plant and other potatoes, frequent hoeing by hauling the dirt around the plant without injuring the vines. As soon as the frost kills the vines, the tubers may be dug.

Marshall, Calhoun Co. 1850.

☞A large share of the present No. of the FARMER, is especially adapted for the season.

For the Michigan Farmer.

To Farmers.

The white-winged snow is falling fast,
Arouud our peaceful dwelling,
And, ever and anon the blast
Comes on the white plain swelling.

And now what comforts gather round
The hearth-stone of the farmer,
That has diligently tilled his ground,
And stored his well-filled garner.

And, farmers, while your tables bend
Beneath their luscious filling,
And vesture warm your forms defend,
And comfort is your dwelling,

Remember, houseless orphans roam
And weep in bitter anguish,
And many wretched parents groan
O'er loved ones that must famish.

Then kindly help the needy poor,
And light their lot of sadness,
By giving from thy plenteous store,
Thus giving hope and gladness.

And then how sweet 'twill be to feel,
When life with you is ended,
That you have cheered the sufferer here,
And helped the undefended.

MINERVA.

CANNON, FEB. 7 1853.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Pasturing Wheat.

ELKHART, IND., Dec., 13, 1853.

MR. ISHAM:—In the fall of the year 1842, a number of my neighbors pastured their wheat, and every field, as far as my observation extended, was very full of chess at harvest. One of my neighbors, whose field adjoins mine, turned 18 or 20 head of large cattle into a 20 acre field, and let them run upon it all the fall, wet and dry.—In stormy, cold weather, the cattle would always collect in one certain corner of the field. I anticipated what the consequence would be, and watched the effect closely: the following harvest the crop was full one-fifth chess, and in the corner of the field above mentioned, full seven-eights was chess. I would say, don't pasture wheat until the ground is hard frozen; I never pasture it at any time. STRAWS.

For the Michigan Farmer

Anti book Farmer.

A. B. N. of Cass County. after enumerating some of the excuses of a class of farmers in his neighborhood, when asked to take the FARMER. says:—

Farmers that make such excuses, as a general thing, have their barns and stables enclosed with a bank of manure, the bushes on each side of their fences, as high as a man's head, and so thick, you might run a knife in up to the handle, wheat so thin and small, you might chase a squirrel through it.

HORTICULTURAL.

S. B. NOBLE, EDITOR.

The Strawberry.

In a former number we promised a more extended article on the cultivation of the strawberry, and now redeem the pledge. The strawberry now claims the attention of all classes, and a garden is considered incomplete without the strawberry-bed, and its hardiness, easy cultivation, and agreeable flavor, render it a favorite. The fruit or berry does not undergo the acetuius fermentation. It is a delicious article of diet, particularly for those whose stomachs have a tendency to acidity. It promotes perspiration, dissolves the tartarrious incrustations of the teeth, and is highly beneficial in many diseases,

Species.—The temperate climates of both hemispheres give rise to different species. The varieties of which can be selected for northern or southern localities.

Varieties of the strawberry may be increased to an unlimited extent from seed, very few of which would be worthy of cultivation. The varieties, like many fruits, are quite too numerous for practical purposes, and should be confined to proper limits.

The scarlet strawberries have been derived from the wild scarlet strawberry of North America; the pines, from the Surinam strawberry. From the wood strawberry of Europe, have been produced the woods and alpines; and the hautbois from Bohemia. The scarlets and pines are those generally cultivated, being the largest and best flavored.

Soil.—The soil best adapted to the strawberry, is a deep sandy or gravelly loam; if not naturally rich, it should be made so by deep trenching and manuring. They will do well on any rich mellow soil, with an aspect fully exposed to the sun, and a free circulation of air.

Cultivation.—They propagate themselves rapidly by runners, and in selecting from a bed for a new plantation, runners only should be taken from plants, that have borne large and well-formed fruit, having previously marked such, by sticking down small sticks by the side of the parent plant. New plantations may be made early in August and if properly cared for, will bear some from the next season. We prefer putting them out in nursery rows for the next spring planting, which may be done in April or May, always selecting the largest and most stocky plants.

Cultivating in rows is best adapted for small gardens, and produces the largest and finest flavored fruits. The rows should be eighteen inches apart, the plants set in the rows twelve inches apart; keep them well supplied with water to insure a good growth of well perfected fruit.

Cultivated in alternate strips is easier and cheaper for large plantations; having previously prepared your ground, and provided yourself with good plants, either early in April or August, with a line, strike out two rows, one foot apart, leaving two feet space between each two rows for an alley; set the plants one foot apart, and permit the runners to extend themselves and form plants in every alternate alley; in the other alleys they should not be permitted to run, until you wish to renew the plantation, and after the fruiting season, always cutting off all the runners from all plants having staminate or pistillate blossoms only. Plantations made in this way, may be renewed every two, three or four years, and continue fruitful for an indefinite period, by spading or plowing the old rows, and leaving the new formed plants in the alternate alleys for the new plantation.

Staminate and Pistillate Plants.—In the January number we gave a drawing of staminate and pistillate flowers, by which may be distinguished the perfect and and imperfect blossoms. Some cultivators maintain that all plantations should have a proper portion of staminates mixed with the pistillate plants to insure a crop of fruit, others contend that the strawberry in its natural state bears flowers with stamens and pistils in proper proportions in the same blossom, and therefore every blossom will naturally produce perfect fruit.

(To be continued.)

Grafting.

Plums should be grafted early in April, cultivate none but the very best sorts; the following are among the good varieties, and worthy of cultivation, viz: Washington, Coes Golden Drop, Prince's Imperial Gage, Bleecker's Gage, Green Gage, Yellow Gage, Magnum Bonum. The Egg plums are only for preserving, and not a good desert. Seedling trees of common sorts are best for stocks. If they are not to be had, use the wild plum, it makes a very good stock, and should be grafted so low that the scion will be below the surface; to insert it, remove the earth from the stock and insert the scion, then wax and draw the earth back, nearly covering the scion. Scions put in thus, will generally take root the first or second year, make strong and vigorous trees, and not liable to outgrow the stock. It is difficult to graft plums below the surface, unless the wild plum is transplanted and set sufficiently deep for the purpose, which is better to be done a year before wanted; select trees about one inch in diameter, of a thrifty growth.

The plum will adapt itself to almost any soil tolerably well, but does best in a deep rich soil, rather moist. Since the curculio has made such havoc of plums, many have become discouraged, and we have known a few instances, where they have cut away and destroyed the trees, and substituted oth-

er fruit. We think it bad policy to do so. We have noticed that plum trees growing in very hard soil, or in stiff clay soil, have generally produced fruit but little affected with the curculio.

Apples may be grafted any time this month, the earlier the better. Apple stocks are best and easily obtained, the operation may be performed in any way to suit the circumstances. We are decidedly opposed to the practice of cutting off the large limbs of trees and grafting them. Small limbs may do well grafted, but we prefer budding the tops of large trees, as being most safe. Cultivate none but the best varieties, the very earliest and the very latest, will undoubtedly be the most profitable to raise. Select the most saleable kinds in the market, discard all large *coarse grained* sorts as unfit for use.

The following are good early varieties and worthy of cultivation, viz: yellow harvest, sweet bough strawberry, summer pearmain, red astracan. For fall apples the following are considered among the best, viz: fameuse or snow, porter, autumn swaar, rambo, seek-no-further, winter pippin, Rhode Island greening, swaar, vandevere, esopus spitzenburgh, American golden russet, baldwin, northern spy, wine, Roxbury russet, Newtown pippin, bell flower, Jonathan, Ladies' sweetning.

The above list comprises but a small part of the varieties of good apples. For a small orchard, say from fifty to one hundred trees, take not over one-half of the varieties enumerated above, and they will furnish a constant succession of apples for every month in the year. They are sorts almost universally esteemed.

(To be continued.)

Work for the flower-garden.

Early in this month, prune all ornamental trees, shrubs, vines and creepers that need pruning; cut out all decayed and crooked branches. Attend to the running roses, and creeping plants, see that they are properly secured to the trellis.

Procure and set out choice shrubbery, procure biennial and perrenial flowering shrubs; divide, if you wish to increase. Bulbous roots are better transplated after they have flowered, as transplanting before, destroys the flowers, but it can be done this month safely. September and October are good months for the operation. Attend to the dahlias that are sprouting, divide and put them growing, as reccommended last month. Crocus, tulips, hyacinths and other bulbs are coming up, and some may flower this month, see that they are well cared for.

Hardy and half-hardy flower-seeds may be sown; small seeds should be covered slightly, and protected from the scorching sun as reccommended by "Flora." Seeds of biennial and perrenial flowers, may be sown this month, or delayed till June.

Tuberous roots, such as paconies and other sorts may be transplanted this month.

Prepare the ground for transplanting annual flower-plants next month, spade deep and make it rich.

Green-house plants will claim a share of your attention. Many varieties that have remained dormant through the winter, will now begin to grow. Water according to their habits, give air freely. Those plants that are affected with a light colored or a brown scaly insect, apparently lifeless, clean with a sponge dipped in weak soapsuds, if not destroyed by a faithful application, they had better be headed down, and permit an entire new growth.

Raspberries.

Every garden or fruit yard should be well supplied with raspberries. Procure the best varietes, such as the red and white antwerps, the fastolf and several other English sorts. The common American black is greatly improved by good cultivation, which is easily obtained, and should be in every collection.

A deep, moist rich soil is best, but they may be grown on any good soil, set out about four feet apart, and tie the canes of the long growing varieties to a trellis, or to stakes drove firmly in the ground. Keep the ground clean by hoeing often.—Old chip manure and sawdust is good to cover the ground, keep it moist and free from weeds.

Work for April.

If not done last month, procure what fruit trees and shrubbery you intend to, early this month, set them out well, dig the holes large, place their roots in their natural position, fill up with a good comport, or very rich soil, and mulch them, if very dry, water moderately.

Clear off all weeds and decayed stalks of plants and flowers, and remove them from the garden, or burn them, and prepare the ground and sow as early as possible, onions, parsley, peas, salsify, spinach, beets, carrots, parsnips and lettuce for early use. From the middle to the last of the month, sow cauliflower, cabbage, celery, cress and turnips, plant potatoes, beans, corn, squashes, cucumbers, and melons for early, and for a succession of the different vegetables, sowings may be made at intervals of from ten to fifteen days throughout the season.—Beets and most roots are better for winter use if not sown till the first week in June, and cucumbers for pickiling, from the first to the fifteenth day of June.

Look well to the hot beds, give plenty of air and water in mild weather, and in cold nights cover the sash with matting. Clean off the asparagus bed, add a coat of manure, fork it in and mix well with the soil, and make new beds this month. If not already done, plant out cuttings of currants

and gooseberries, and trim the old bushes, divest them of all superfluous and decayed branches.

Transplant from the hot-bed a few plants of lettuce and cabbage, for early heads.

Grape vines should be attended to, see that they are well fastened to the trellis.

Pruning should now be done if not already attended to, prune fruit trees, removing all superfluous branches so as to admit light and heat to all parts of the tree. Peach trees should be shortned in and trimmed *very sparingly*.

Transplant all medicinal and culinary roots,such as sage, thyme, parsley, &c., if needed.

Flowers.

☞ We commend the following article to the attention of all who love flowers. The writer is an amateur cultivator, and fully competent to judge of the best varieties of flowers for our climate; her taste and skill in their cultivation, is not excelled by any. Her garden is always decorated with bloom, from early spring till late in the fall, and has furnished a good supply to decorate floral-hall, at all our state and county fairs:—

MR. NOBLE, DEAR SIR:—Feeling an interest in giving variety to the FARMER, and to comply with your request for something for the floricultural department, I am induced to send you this article on flowers, giving a short list of those most hardy and easy of cultivation. I am pleased to see the FARMER so well sustained, and the March number come to us with a new dress, of which it is well worthy.

Some seeds will germinate in two or three days, others require as many weeks. These features arise in part from their having originated in diverse soils, and climates; natives of cool and temperate climates require more moisture than those of warm climates, which require more heat and less moisture.

Many flower seeds do not germinate, on account of the careless manner of planting. Then the dry winds of spring, and the scorching midday sun often proves the death of the more delicate seeds, for want of a little attention in covering the surface with moss, or litter of some kind, keeping it damp until the plants make their appearance, when it should be gradually removed. The seeds of the amaranthus should be entirely removed from the pericarp, or seed-vessel, and before planting be soaked in warm water, or milk —which is better,—for one night. If the cultivator is restricted in the cultivation, to "a short list of annual, biennial, and perennial flowers," I would select those giving the richest and longest bloom. For *late* blooming, the annuals yield fine specimens,—drummond's phlox, [phlox drummundii] grows from ten to twelve inches high, of various shades, and, planted in lines drawn round a circular bed,—white in the centre, shaded off to the edge alternately with the different colors, forms a splendid mass of variegated bloom.

Petunias,—in many beautiful varieties, bloom until visited by "black frost," are of a trailing habit and make fine masses of bloom.

Hairy purslane,—[portulacas,—many colors, white, pink, crimson, yellow and striped, four to six inches high, each sort massed by itself, makes a beautiful picture: grows in any soil.

Ageratum Mexicana,- delicate, pale blue;—flowers in profusion until late autumn.

White allysum,—[allysum maritima]—low-growing, very handsome, and blooms until near winter.

Soperia coronata—dark green leaves, surmounted by pink feathery blossoms, beautiful for boquets.

Palestine mustard,—[eryssimum, &c.]—deep orange, very hardy.

Golden bartonia,—[bartonia aurea]—shining, rich yellow.

German asters,—a variety of colors, very ornamental.

Candy tuft,—[Iberis oneciferce]—purple, red, lilac and white.

Migisnnette,—[resedo odorato and alba]—fine for boquets.

Dwarf rocket larkspur in variety, delphinium etc.

Golden correpsis, calliopsis tinctoria.

White egg plant, solanum melongela.—[tender.]

Gilia variegated, gilea tricolor.

White ice plant, mesembry, anthenmum chrystalinum.—[tender]

Schizanthus in variety, schizanthus etc.

Annual stock in variety, mathshiola annual var.

The following climbing or trailing annuals are well worthy of cultivation, adding much to the beauty of the flower garden:—

Balloon vine, cardiospermum halicacabum.

Balsam apple and pear, mamondica balsamina.

Cyprus vine in variety. Ipomea var.

Nasturtium variegated, tropeclum nana etc.

Sweet peas in variety, lathyrus ouoratus etc.

Morning Glory.

But lest I go beyond "a short list," I will pause;—the "winter flowers" however, must not be forgotten or omitted.

Premiums should especially be awarded for this class of flowers, to encourage their cultivation; baskets and vases filled with them, shed the halo of a summer cheerfulness over the household, both in cottage and farmhouse, while all without is wrapped in winter's frozen mantle:—

Globe amaranth,—[amaranthus sanguinea.]
" " [" alba.]
Golden eternal flower,—[helechrysum bracteatum.]
White " " [" alba]
" tipped with pink [" macranthum.]

Amuobium abatum small, white, fine variety.

Coxcombs,—[Celosia. in varieties.] These are of many shades, crimson, orange, yellow, and all intermediate colors.

FLORA.

☞ We crowd in at a late hour, the following from friend Eastman, of Adrian, in the hope

that others may be equally successful in *heading* the curculio :—

For the Michigan Farmer.

Heading the Curculio.

Last spring I had two plum trees in my garden (and only two) that blossomed; about the time they were in full bloom, I made a ring of tar around one, at a convenient distance from the ground, and then kept up a daily watch of the plums as they increased in size. When they had attained about the size of a large pea, I discovered upon one or two, that the curculio had commenced its work. I then spread a sheet upon the ground, and gave two or three sudden jars upon the tree, and brought down two of the depredators possum-like, which I immediately dispatched. Upon looking at the ring of tar, I found it had become sufficiently hard to admit any insect to walk over it with impunity. I then renewed the tar and kept it moist, during the remainder of the season. I found no more curculios upon that tree, and the entire fruit (save the one or two plums injured by the insect) come to full maturity. The other tree (having dropped its fruit the year before, in consequence of the operations of the curculio) died before it was out of blossom.

Tar is probably the best thing that can be used to prevent their ascent, and in applying it, it would be well to first tie something around the body of the tree of sufficient size to prevent the tar from running down as much as possible, and to keep it moist and sticky during the season of the insect. It should be applied to every plum tree in the neighborhood, or the insect, after it has attained a sufficient size, can and will, fly from one tree to another.

A. G. Eastman.

Adrian, March, 1853.

[To be continued.]

For the Michigan Farmer.

Grape Culture.

Pennfield, Calhoun Co., Mich.

Dr. Sir :—I concieve the best time to prune the vine, is when the severest of the frosty weather is gone, generally in the month of March, not sooner. I have known much of the young wood die from very severe frost after cutting. Then as to the quantity of wood to be left, this should be, no more than is barely sufficient to supply the stand or side of the house.

My plan of training the grape vine is this : I place a row of posts the whole length of the vine eight feet high and two feet in the ground, three feet apart; across these I nail splints 1 1-2 inches wide and 18 inches apart; I lay a strong and long shoot of the vine, down in the ground about two inches deep, by the side of these posts, bringing it out against every post. Thus inlaid it produces young shoots against the posts, the best one of these I tie up to the post, the other I brake off. The shoot thus tied up, must be broke off on reaching the top of the post, about every two weeks. Braek off, also, all the small side shoots; the next season you may expect considerable fruit Clusters will come on the young wood, sprouting from every knot on the upright piece, (tied to the post, tie these young brauches to the cross splints.) Almost every piece of this young wood will produce 3 or 4 bunches of grapes. Then break off—and keep breaking off all the side shoots during the entire summer, thus you may expect plenty of grapes, and of good quality, having supplied every post with a good healthy branch from the root; in the following spring cut off all the side branches from every upright branch, to make room for next spring's growth. A grape vine may be carried out in length ten or fifteen feet every year. Plenty of manure should be dug in every spring, (early,) and keep down all weeds, &c. Soap suds is excellent during summer, applied to the roots. Your insertion of the above will oblige

Matthew Atmore,
From Old England.

P. S.—The Vineries in England, have a glass roof standing twenty feet, the rafters are three feet apart, wire is fastened across the rafters about fifteen inches apart; every rafter has an entire vine of one shoot, carried up from the bottom to the top. When the pruning is finished in the winter, they look like so many straight poles, full of knots. M. A.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Apple Worm Cocoon.

Elkhart Co., Ia., Dec. 13, 1852.

Mr. Isham :—For the information of Mr. S. B. Noble and M. A. T., in the November and December number of the Michigan Farmer I would state that I think they will find the cocoons adhering to the apple trees, even with or perhaps a little beneath the surface of the ground. Look sharp, and you will find them all along through the summer from June to October. The cocoons are open on the side which adheres to the bark of the tree, and contain a worm of a light green color, about three-quarters of an in inch long. In three or four weeks they come out a brown miller. I am not millerite enough to give a scientific description of them. No apples in my orchard, or I should have tried to follow up my experience further.

Pippin.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Another reply to Mr. Chipman.

Hanover, Feb. 3, 1853.

Mr. Isham:—In the Jan. No. of the Farmer, on the 25th page, under the head of phenomenon in fruit culture, is an article signed by C. A. Chipman, of Avon, in which he asks several questions in regard to injury sustained by some of his fruit trees. I may not be able to answer them satisfactorily, but I will state a few facts that I am knowing to, and perhaps draw some conclusions from them.

My orchard consists of about 100 bearing apple trees—I have just been examining them—many of them are affected in a similar manner to

his, mostly on the west and south-west side. The orchard consists of several varieties, some of the varieties have suffered greater injury than others. The kinds that appear to have suffered most are winter swaar, winter Pearmain, fameuse, seeknofurther and vandevere, while the Rhode Island greening, Tollman sweeting, esposus, spitzenberg, sweet bough, and green Newtown pippin, have almost entirely escaped. My trees are large enough to bear from 5 to 10 bushels of fruit each, they were all originally grafted in the roots, but the fruit of some proving inferior, I have been re-grafting them. But the trees that have been most recently grafted and had the largest amount of top removed in proportion to the whole, have been the greatest sufferers. One tree, a 20 oz. Pippin, that I re-grafted in the spring of 1851, and from which nearly all the top was removed, was killed outright, while another tree of the same kind, standing two rods distant, and from which no limbs were removed, was uninjured.—The scions in the tree that was killed, had made a very vigorous growth during the summer; the last winter, as indicated by the thermometre, was the severest that has been known for many years. Now I conclude that the cause of the calamity is to be found in the great severity of the cold in the winter of 1851 and 1852, accompanied with those fierce biting winds from the west and south-west, which blew during the coldest days, producing a large amount of discomfort to man and beast, and an effect upon the vegetable kingdom, that would not have been produced, with the mercury several degrees lower, if unaccompanied with wind.

I have no doubt that removing the tops had an influence, probably by producing a sluggish and unhealthy action in the sap of the tree, thereby rendering it more susceptible of injury, but it could not be attributed wholly to that, for the reason that those kinds named above as having been severe sufferers, had neither been re-grafted nor severely pruned. I also had several fine plmb trees killed last winter, so that while looking for them to put forth buds and blossoms in the spring, behold the branches were withered and turned black.

It will be seen that the kinds above stated to have escaped injury are among the very best varieties. Would it not be policy for people when about to set an orchard, to procure such, thereby securing a double advantage, hardiness and good fruit? It is probable that others of the numerous readers of the Farmer, have orchards that have sustained similar injury, if so, will you request them to communicate the fact through your valuable paper, which the farmers of Michigan should be more prompt to use, as a means of transmitting facts and thoughts to each other in regard to farming, an interest which is the foundation and support of all others.*

Will you please give your opinion why the the south-west winds are the coldest we have in the winter season, while those of the north and north-east are comparatively mild. I am inclined to think it is owing to their passing a long way, over an open and level country, with no barrier to break their force, and no broad and deep body of water intervening to modify their serverity, while those that come from the north and north-east are modified by passing over those broad and deep lakes, Huron and Superior.†

Yours respectfully,
WM. CLAPP.

P. S.—the ground on which my orchard stands has an eastern inclination. W. C.

* Certainly they should and will, and we hope to hear from yourself again and again.—ED.

† That is the reason we should have assigned. —ED.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Still another remedy.

To Mr. C. A. Chipman, in the January No. of the Michigan Farmer, on the destruction of his apple trees.

There are many of the best apple trees in this neighborhood, my own included, affected in the same way. The cause is not from grafting or topping or not topping. I doubt not the excessive cold weather was the cause. The sun shining on the south-west caused an expansion, and bursted the bark loose. (I think Mr C. will find the injury south of west, mostly.) I saw trees last summer entirely denuded of bark, and full of apples at that. I have conversed with some of the farmers near here, and they are of the above opinion.

THOS. B. MILLARD.

Lockport, St. Jo. Co., Mich.

P. S.—I am in favor of Mr. Chipman's *modus operandi*, he signs his name and gives his place of residence, except the county.* T. B. M.

*Oakland Co.—ED.

Grafting Wax.

The following composition makes an excellent article of grafting wax:—

Bees wax, rosin and tallow, equal parts, melt and mix, turn into water, and while warm work like shoemaker's wax. The quantity of tallow may be varied as the air may be cold or warm. It may be applied in the usual way, or by taking strips of old cloth, like calico, about an inch wide, dipped into the melted composition, cooled, cut into pieces and used as wanted.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Dogs! Dogs!!

MR. ISHAM:—

I have the names of 13 farmers in this vicinity, who have had one hundred and thirteen sheep killed by dogs.

What a blessing it would have been to the honest industrious wool growers, if all the dogs it the State had been grafted to the Maine liquor law, and passed!

But I fear, sir, the Legislators of many of the States, are more afraid of loosing dog votes, than freeman's votes.

For the Michigrn Farmer.

Raising Broom Corn.

Mr. Isham :—

I now proceed, as I proposed, to give some directions in reference to the cultivation of broom corn.

Select a piece of clean ground, or never plant it. Plow as we do for Indian corn; deep plowing is the best, of course. Mark the ground with a chain, or pole, from 3 1-2 to 4 feet apart, according to the strength of the ground. The question may here be asked, why the ground should be marked with a chain or pole? I answer, in order to place the seed as near the surface of the ground as possible. If Yankee ingenuity can invent something with less labor, so much the better.

In the preparation of the seed for planting, pour the quantity of seed you wish to plant, in some vessel, pound it with a round stick, about the size of a small ball club, until the hull gives away from the seed, then run it through a fanning mill, or pour it from one vessel into another in a brisk wind, until the loose stuff is all blown out. You need not fear injuring the seed. A few minutes pounding will answer.

Now, in order to know whether your seed will germinate or not, place some dirt in a dish in some warm place, and throw in a small handful of seed, keeping it moist, and the story will soon be told. If the seed proves to be pure, be very careful about dropping. The expense of thining out, ofsen exceeds the cost of hoeing. I plant from twenty inches to two feet on the marks.—Take between your thumb and finger from ten to twelve seeds, dropping according to the distance mentioned, and covering the same with a very light hoeful of dirt.

After the crop gets large enough to follow the rows, pass through it with a cultivator, and now comes the task, the first time hoeing; small spindling looking stuff, who would think it will ever come to anything? Well, boys, here is a hard task before us, but it must be done. You see it is not so very grassy; I have selected a clean piece of ground, very mellow, but I perceive now that the boys have put too much in a hill. Six spires in a hill, and no more. I want every spire to stand pefectly straight. Well, the hardest of the toil now commences; with our backs bent close to the ground, leaving the six spires in a hill and no more, and weeding out the grass. Soon one of the boys raises up, O dear, how my back aches! Another raises up and says, if this was mine I would sow it with buckwheat. Another says, it would make a good summer fallow. Finally, the owner of the crop raises his voice and says, this is nothing in comparison to some fields I have hoed.

The work is at last accomplished, first time hoeing, a dread to the broom maker's ears, altho' he has followed it for years.

In two or three weeks, sometimes four, the broom corn man calls on his boys again to take breakfast and start out as before. Reaching the field, one of the boys exclaims, well, who would have thought that little stuff would have grown to such a prodigious height in less than four weeks? The old horse and small plow are now brought forward; turn the furrew towards the hill, says the owner of the crop, be careful to hill it well. It is now the whistle and the song among the boys trim enough nice and clean, no bending of backs, and the work is soon accomplished.

Remainder in next No.

For the Michigan Farmer.

The cut worm, asonishing fecuudity.

Clinton, Feb. 17, 1853.

Friend Isham :—

I wish to enquire through the medium of the Farmer, if any your numerous readers know how to *exterminate or extirpate* the cut worm, (the common grey worm that destroys cabbages.)—In this vicinity they have become so numerous as to affect the corn crop materially, and several broad fields of clover, the past summer were entirely destroyed—not a single stalk remaining.—Clover, like other plants, cannot survive long unless it can put forth leaves, which serve as respiratory organs to the plant—consequently when attacked by such countless myriads, the clover field became barren and dead. Some idea may be formed of the immensity of their number, from the following facts: A neighbor had taken out a post beside his field, leaving a hole some two feet deep—the worms rambling about in search of food fell into this pit until they accumulated to the depth of a foot. He also measured a square foot of ground, and carefully removed the earth, when it was found to contain two hundred and thirty-two (232) of the creeping "varments."—At this ratio, if I have figured right, there would be on an acre 10,096,640—no wonder then the clover disappeared. Here are more mouths to supply than Xerxes had when he invaded Greece. These vermin do not disturb wheat. A field lying contiguous to these clover flats, was not molested, although the young clover (it being seeded) and sorrel were entirely destroyed, not a vestige of any green plant remaining except the wheat. This same neighbor, mentioned above, to prevent the scamps from marching into a field, plowed a deep furrow, the perpendicular side of which presented a barrier they could not overcome. These fields, which have been the theatre of such strange operations, have lain in clover sod for quite a number of years.

R. R. J.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Seed Potatoes.

Ionia, March 14th, 1853.

Friend Isham :—As the time for commencing farming operations is drawing near, I thought I would give the readers of the Farmer, a little of my experience in regard to seed potatoes.

As potatoes were rather scarce with us last spring, we commenced before planting time to cut off the seed ends of the potatoes that we were eating. When planting time came, we had saved enough to plant three rows, six yards long. Others were planted at the same time, that were planted whole. They were all hoed at the same

time, and treated exactly alike in every respect, but when dug in the fall, the whole ones produced one bushel and a half more to three rows, than where the seed-ends were planted. This was probably owing partly to the drouth.

Whilst I am writing, I will say a few words about milch cows; experience teaches me that raw pumpkins are bad feed for them, as it dries up the milk. They should never be fed to milch cows without being boiled or steamed. Experience also teaches me, that wheat-bran or shorts, are much better for being scalded.

Respectfully yours, S. D. ARNOLD.

P. S.—I should like to enquire of Dr. Freeman, through the FARMER, how his hens get to the feed and water in his houses. He says nothing about that in the plan that he has given in the FARMER. I think of building one this spring, and should like to build one after his plan.

S D. A.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Look to your seed corn.

NEWBURG MILLS, March 15, 1853

MR. ISHAM:—It is well known that there was a general failure last year, with the seed-corn, in germinating after planting. Many were under the necccssity of planting over the second, and even third time, at each time waiting some five or six days to ascertain whether their seed was good.

Every farmer should know for a certainty, before the time of planting, whether his seed will germinate. This may very easily be done by cutting two small pieces of turf, moistenining the dirt, putting the corn between the two pieces, and laying them in some warm place.

Respectfully yours E. H. JOHNSON.

ALBION, March 15th.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Improving Marshes,—Mr. Smith's Stable—Cattle Comfort.

HICKORY GROVE, MICH., Feb. 2d 1853.

MR. EDITOR:—The reception of your valuable paper after an omission of nearly two years is welcome. I take the Wool Grower and Genesee Farmer, but I believe your paper for a *Michigan* man, is the most useful of the three. I wish to make some inquiries in regard to the best mode of getting the foul meadow grass into our marshes. Some few years since, a friend of mine had a piece of marsh that was almost worthless; he ditched it and divided it into two lots, one of which he pastured with cattle through the summer, and while his cattle were running over it, he sowed on it red top seed mixed with some timothy. The next year he left that field for a meadow, and pastured the other, sowing on grass seed as before. By pursuing this course a few years, he succeeded in converting an almost worthless marsh to a first rate meadow, at a small expense. I have a piece of 40 acres, that I think is too wet for timothy or red top. I design ditching it in the spring, and if you or some of your correspondents will give me the *modus operandi* of getting in foul meadow grass, it will more than tenfold repay me for the expense of my subscription to agricultural papers. Will it do to produce the season of sowing, and at what time of year had it ought to be sown?

I have been thinking of laying down a stable floor for my cow stable, on the plan of Mr. Smith's of Coldwater, but I should suppose that the straw used for bedding would prevent the manure from passing through into the vault below. Does Mr. Smith bed down his cattle? †

I have taken some pains to improve my stock of cattle and sheep. I have got two Durham calves and eighty full blooded Spanish sheep, purchased from the flock of C. W. Foote, Cornwall Vermont,

Experience has proved to me, that cattle and horses can be kept through the winter with little more than half the expense, by keeping them warmly housed, than is necessary in the usual way of open sheds, and using a corn stalk and straw cutter, besides the pleasure of seeing your stock, young and old thrifty and growing, instead of having mere frames in the spring. ‡

Yours respectfully, I. G. M.

* We have had no experience in putting it in, but apprehend there would be no more difficulty in making it "take," than timothy or red top. I any of our readers have any facts to give or suggestions to make, on the subject, let them speak.

† We think we stated in the letter from England in which we gave an account of that kind of floor, that no bedding was used, and if we did not, it seemed to be unnecessary, as, from the nature of the case, it would defeat the object of it, for not only would it prevent the manure dropping through, but would add to, rather than diminish the difficulty of cleaning the stable, besides besmearing the cattle just as badly as the old way. But the cattle do just as well without bedding, and feel a great deal better, than if all plastered with dung.

‡ That is the way. If those of our farmers who let their stock run out in winter, had any conception of the loss they are sustaining, to say nothing of the life of wretchedness they inflict upon the dumb beast, they would certainly mend their ways.—ED.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Mr. Robert's Potato Discovery.

MR. ISHAM:—Allow me to call the attention of your readers to a small pamphlet by Mr. Roberts of Plymoulh, detailing his success in detecting the cause of the potato rot, and the remedy. It is the result of many years' investigation and experiments, and commends itself to every man's good sense. By paying the small sum of one dollar for the pamphlet, any one may have the benefit of this important discovery, which has attracted the attention of some of our most distinguished farmers.

Respectfully yours,

A SUBSCRIBER.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Manuring—Feeding Wheat &c.

FRIEND ISHAM:—Will you answer the following inquiries through the FARMER. for the benefit of its readers. [Myself included]

1st. It is becoming a practice among farmers here to draw out their barn-yard manure, refuse straw &c., in the fall, distributing it in small heaps on their land, to remain so till spring; it is then spread and plowed under for spring crops. Would it not pay better to let it remain in the barn yard undisturbed till spring, then apply it to the land as above. *

2d. Turning cattle and horses on wheat in the fall and winter, is another practice among some of us; whether the crop is injured or not by this practice, is a question disputed by some. †

3d. Some people have an idea that dragging or harrowing wheat in the spring, has a decided good effect upon the crop. besides giving an opportunity to seed with clover at the same time; what is your opinion on the subject? ‡

Yours truly, D. TOOKER.

To W. ISHAM Esq.

* Certainly it would pay better, for it could scarcely be more effectually exposed to loss, both from evaporation and drenching than by thus distributing it in the field —ED.

† That the crop is injured to some extent, we have no doubt, but it has been our opinion that if it is very forward, it is better to suffer a *certain* small loss, than to run the risk of losing the whole or a greater portion of it, from snows crusted over. which exclude the air from it, so that it cannot breathe, and sometimes smothering it to death. We have seen many a field thus either partially or wholly destroyed.

On this subject we have just received the following from a subscriber "*ninety miles up the country*:"—ED.

"I have been a resident of Michigan 17 years, and have never seen wheat injured but once in all that time, by snow lying on it, and that was very slight. It makes no odds how deep snow falls, if the ground is frozen; it will not injure the crop. If snow falls deep when the ground is *not* frozen, and lies a long time, wheat will smother, if it is fed ever so close. This however. rarely happens at the west. The only other case in which early sown wheat kills, is by a long dry freeze, when the ground is bare. In this case, the more tops the better. My neighbor who lives next to me, whose invariable rule is never to feed, his wheat has never lost a crop in 20 years."

‡ We have known several instances, in which the benefit arising from harrowing wheat in the spring, was very striking, and no instance in which it was injurious. It must certainly be beneficial in seeding to clover, especially in a dry season.—ED.

THE MARKETS.

☞ Agents for Eastern Speculators and Manufacturers, have been traversing the country, to contract with the farmers for wool at from forty to sixty cents; but there has been a little check to it of late. Flour is still dull; the opening through of navigation will doubtless affect the price favorably.

Detroit Prices Current.

Herd's Grass..₩		$ 2 00		Eggs....₩ doz		14
Flax..... "		1 00		Hides dry...₩ lb		8½
Lime.....₩ bbl		75		Calf Skins dry "		16
Flour..... "		@3 62½		Tallow tried "		9
Corn.....₩ bu		50		Wheat.....₩ bu		80
Oats..... "		38		Onions..... "		50
Rye..... "		50		Cranberries "		3 00
Barley..... "		@	75	Buckwheat ₩ 100		1 50
Hogs..... 100 lbs		5 00@	6 00	Indian meal "		1 50
Beef on foot.. "		4 00@	5 00	Lard (retail) ₩ lb		10
Beef.....₩ bbl		9 50@	10 00	Honey..... "		12 1-2
Pork mess... "		16 00@		Apples dried ₩ bu		1 25
White Fish.. "		8 00	9 00	Peaches " "		
Trout..... "		8 00		Clover seed... "		5 00
Codfish ..... "		5 00		Pine lumber, clear,		20 00 ₩ Mlt.
Hams.....₩ lb		10		" 2d "		15 00 "
Apples.....₩ bu		2 @	37	Bill lumber.. "		11 00 "
Potatoes..... "		50		Flooring.... "		23 00 "
Hay.....₩ ton		15 00		Common.... "		10 00 "
Wool.....₩ lb		30@	60	Lath..... "		2 00 "
Peas.....₩ bu		1 50		Coal Tar....₩ bbl.		2 50
Beans..... "		1 75		Water Lime. "		1 50
Cheese.....₩ lb		10	12	Wood.....₩ cord		2 00@ 2 50
Butter..... "		12	14	Brooms.....₩ doz.		1 37½@1 75
Salt..... ₩ bbl		1 50				

Receipts for the Michigan Farmer.

FROM FEB 26D. TO MARCH 27th.

Hiram Brown, 2; A. G. Eastman, 3; Jacob Baker, 1; E H Johnson, 5; R. B. Pixley 3; R. Nims, 1833; H. Howell, 6; Dan. Cushman, 4; A. O. Sutton, 1.50; D. H. Hume, 1; Wm. Butts 3; Jas. B Hampton. 1; A. McDougal, 1.50; W. P. Newcomb. 3; C. W Hunt. 2 George Talbott, 2; Lorenzo Lincoln, 0.75; Mixer & Co. 1; J. R. Hammond. 1; Archibald Marshall 8, 80. Clark Corey 2 Levi Treadwell, 11.25; Philip Marlatt 1.50; O. C. Palmer. 10.25; J. Chapin 4.50; W. H Champ man, 1; N. Thurston, 1; O. H. Lee. 1; A. Perrin. 2; Jesse Sutton, 1.50; Gide. n Stanford 24.50; H. F. Baker 3; Curtis Wheelock. 1; Marcus S. Taylor. 1; S. D. Moore. 3; R. P. Boutman, 1; Dr. J. C. Smith, 2; W S Fairfield, 6; H. A. Francisco. 1; E M. Kingsbury, 3; J H. Cothren 3; Avery Freeman 1; P. Jenney, 1; Lyman C. Willett 1; George W. McAllister. 3; Rix Robinson 1; Eli Annis 3; Peter Miller, 7; A. S Brooks, 1; G. Tacy, 11, 8; E. H. Johnson, 3; W. H Patterson. 2.25; C. S Varnum, 0.75; Horatio Hadley, 1.50; Gilbert Reeve Hurd, 1; P. Mason. 0.38; J. P. Link. 1; A. Bowser. 3; John Porter, 1.50; H. King. 1; R. G. May. 0.75; J. L. Kelsey, 1; J Preston. 1; Thorp. Smith, and Hancock. 12; Derby & Miller 12; Wm. A. Brown, 3; L. W Bostwick. 1; E. H. Johnson. 2; Wolcott Marsh. 1; S. Whitney. 1.50; D. Watson, 1; A. Wooden, 1; James Walker, 1; J. H. Culver. 1; J. W. Phillips 2; John Babcock. 0.75; Isaac Fehrman. 1; H. Hoffman. 1; Wm Bolt. 2; C. B Dibble. 1; Wm. Weston, 2.40; C. Quick. 3; J. J. Fairchild, 3; S. D. Axford 5; Jesse Sutton. 3; Levi Walker 6; J. Anderson. 4.80; John McAllister, 2; Charles Butler, 1; J. H Andrews. 4; Rev. I W. Riggs. 1; E Barrow. 8.20; C. L. Newkirk. 1; Hiram Smith. 2; Warren Gilbert. 8. A U. Sutton. 0.75. J. L. Stout, 1; Ira D Ward. 0.75; E P Harris. 0.75; J. T. Bud. 1; P. Metcalf 2; Judge J. Sleeper. 1.50; Charles B Carpenter, 4; Doctor C. A. Jeffries. 1; Thomas Kingsworth, 3.18; A. G. Eastman, 5; Reuben L. Hall 1; R. R. Cook. 2 J. B. Porter. 1; A. Mallory 1; Wm. Clark. 1; Eva Jones. 1; D. B. Burnham. 0.75; S. Blackwood. 3; Elijah Leland 1.50; Robert M. Evens. 1; J. V. D. Pay 1.52; John P. Walker 4; Dr. J. Ball 2; C. L. Lacey 2; Geo. Kirby. 12; J. Dingham, 1; J. L. 2; P. William 2; E W. Johnson, 2; L. Treadwell 7.50; W. T. Noel, 1; G. [illegible] 2; M Everett. 2; H F. Baker, 1

For the Michigan Farmer.

Killing Sorrel and Enriching the Land.

SILVER CREEK, FEB. 6, 1853.

MR. ISHAM SIR:—I promised in a future correspondence to give my experience in killing horse sorrel, and will now redeem my promise.—There are many ways in which sorrell can be killed; one way is the soil killing system of skimming over the ground with a plow, just often enough to keep it from making any top for one season, which destroys the greater part of it. It can also be killed by planting the ground to corn, and hoeing it sufficiently to keep it from forming a top.

But my mode of killing it, is quite different: while it kills the sorrel it enrichens the land, which is no small item in its favor.

The experiment was made accidentally; six years ago last spring, I purchased some Ohio clover seed, that had a fair sprinkling of sorrel seed in it; by that means I obtained a smart sprinkling of it in my field; for four years it formed a complete sod. Two years ago last spring, I concluded the lot it had overrun would raise nothing but buckwheat, and left it for that purpose, sowed it in July, raised a good crop, considering the situation of the ground. It yielded thirty bushels to the acre. The next spring I harrowed the ground, and the buckwheat seed came up in abundance. I let it stand until it was in blossom, then plowed it under and sowed on more seed, intending to plow it under for wheat. When in blossom I turned it under, but for certain reasons, did not sow it to wheat. Last spring I plowed deep, and planted it to potatoes, and plowed and hoed them sufficient to keep down all the weeds, had a fair crop of potatoes, killed the sorrel, except around the stumps, where I could not get at it with the plow, and improved the land as much I think as fifty if not more loads of good manure to the acre. The next season I intend to plant corn on another piece, and try my luck again, and you shall know the result.

ISRAEL SALLE.

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